



## PART 1: A BLESSING TO THE WHOLE WORLD

We're all familiar with the Christmas story. But are you familiar with the backstory to the Christmas story?

It turns out, the story of Christmas doesn't begin with a teenager who isn't sure how she got pregnant. It begins 2,000 years before that with a couple who couldn't get pregnant.

### CONNECT

Read **Genesis 12:1–3**. The story of Christmas begins with a remarkable promise to a less than remarkable man. The world would ultimately be blessed through this man by Jesus.

Outside of your personal experience, how has the coming of Jesus blessed the world?

### LEARN

You will watch a shortened version of a message from this series to set up your group discussion. Watch the full message sometime this week as a reminder of what was talked about today.

### APPLY

After sharing what stood out from the video, discuss the following questions as a group:

1. Before the birth of Jesus, it appeared that God had given up on his promise to Abraham. The Christmas story reminds us that even when God is silent, he's not necessarily still. Have you ever walked through seasons of your life where it felt like God wasn't working? Looking back, what did you learn about God during those times?
2. In the video, Andy asked, "If the arrival of Jesus was a blessing to the world, shouldn't Jesus followers be a blessing to the world as well?" Do you think followers of Jesus have been a blessing to the world? If not, what keeps us from our true potential?





3. Toward the end of the video, Andy asks three sets of questions:
  - a. If the arrival of Jesus was intended to be—and was—a blessing to the world, shouldn't Jesus followers be a blessing to the world as well? Are we?
  - b. If the world is better off because of Jesus, shouldn't our world and our communities be better off because of Jesus followers? Is it?
  - c. If Jesus is the light of the world, shouldn't our collective presence in the world make the world brighter? Does it?

Can you answer “yes” to all three questions for your local church, your group, and yourself? If so, what drives these realities for you and if not, what needs to change?

### **BEFORE NEXT TIME**

The world was blessed by the coming of Jesus. The birth of Jesus was for our benefit, and we are able to bless others from gratitude for that gift we've received. Take some time to go back and listen to Andy's full message and then spend some time journaling what you're grateful for this Christmas season, specifically how you've seen God's faithfulness.

### **PRAY**

Take a few moments and pray as a group, thanking God for preparing the perfect time and place in history for Jesus to be born. Ask him to help you take a moment every morning when you wake up and before you get out of bed, to remember that he is on the throne.

