



LIFEGROUPS

Series: The Story:
How Christmas Came to Be
Message: In the Beginning

Scripture: Genesis 15:6
Romans 10:17

Date: Dec. 2 & 3, 2017

—[LET'S START]—

Last week Pastor Dale challenged us to get a vision of what our emotions would be like if God was in control of them. How has that worked for you to center your focus on God's love and His provision of salvation for you through Jesus Christ?

—[LET'S TALK]—

1. Before matter, light, energy, time or even the stars and whirling galaxies ever came into existence, God was! He was not lonely because He's three in personality – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. If a friend commented that Christians believe in three Gods, how would you explain what Christians really believe?
2. Mankind was made in the image and likeness of God. Pastor Dale used the word "freedom" to describe it. Select a partner and take turns explaining how the "freedom" idea works.
3. Abram (soon to be renamed Abraham) believed God's word over and against the barrenness of his situation. It was God's word that created Abram's faith. Abraham's faith was so strengthened by the presence and promise of God that he believed that God could bring the dead back to life. That is why when God tested Abraham's faith by calling him to sacrifice his son Isaac, he believed that even if his son died, God would raise him back to life. Describe a circumstance where you relied on a promise of God to help shape your faith and trust during that time.

—[LET'S ACT]—

It is faith which God says makes you and me righteous in His sight. Faith to believe that the baby born in the manger is indeed His Son. Faith that accepts His life and death were God's sacrifice for our sins. Faith that is sure that God raised His Son from the dead. As Pastor Dale leads us on a journey to the manger, take a moment to pray each morning for your faith to be strengthened as you deal with the struggles of the day ahead.

—[SERMON REVIEW]—

- Before the beginning, there was God – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- God is creative.
 - He made the universe and everything in it.
 - He made people in His image. This likeness is best described in one word, freedom.
- Rather than be faithful to God’s truth, they believed Satan’s lie.
- Things descended into chaos. It seemed that all anyone was concerned about was pleasing themselves. Men continuously did evil in the sight of God.
- God began again with Noah and his family, but sin soon raised its ugly head in their lives.
- God chose a man named Abram whose name God would change to Abraham.
 - God promised Abram, “Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That’s how many descendants you will have.” Against all the evidence that said he and his wife would never be able to conceive, Abram dared to place his hope in God’s word. It was this simple act of trust, believing in what God had said, that made him a righteous man in God’s sight.
- The first great lesson of how Christmas came to be is: Have faith in the promises of God.

—[NOTES]—

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