

Nativity 2.0 For the Love of FACEBOOK A Truly Connected Christmas

Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel" Isaiah 7:14

HOW TO HAVE A TOTALLY CONNECTED CHRISTMAS

That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger." Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."

Luke 2:8-14 (NLT)

When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.

Luke 2:15-20 (NLT)

1. Start, stay with and finish it with JESUS.

"I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—"

...And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:20 (NLT)

2. Go to where the <u>CONNECTED</u> are (<u>JESUS' FAMILY</u>) and DWELL there.

"Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby,...

3. Take <u>JESUS</u> to every scene and tell somebody what HE means to ME.

After seeing Him, the shepherds **told everyone** what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished,

4. Intentionally <u>BE</u> what Jesus is to <u>ME</u> ... A <u>LIVING</u> friend.

All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them...

Going deeper on your own. This Christmas season, (now only 17 more days away) intentionally set out to connect with Jesus and His people. Is there someone in your world who needs a loving call or a friendly visit, not because it is easy, but because it is right? Is there a single parent near you who has struggled mightily to keep house and home together? Would an assortment of groceries and a warm note help them get through the expensive holidays? Is there a member of your family with whom you have had severe conflict this year? Wouldn't this be a great time to call and say, "I just wanted to tell you that I love you, and I'm sorry if I disappointed or hurt you? Is there a friend who has lost someone this year and is lonely and full of the bitterness this world has brought into their lives that could use an expression of Christ love? Then, why not choose to be that expression? Choose to be His child, a living friend, bare His name (Immanuel), and go do it. Bring His light into their dark world. Then write me and tell me your story. You can write me at Jay@centerpointchurch.com