



The True Christmas Story

Ray Vander Laan

Ephesians 4:11–16

WHY LEARNING COMMUNITIES?

To develop spiritual character and strength to face *anything* by...

1. Learning anchored in Biblical truth but addressing cultural issues
2. Relationships that connect and blossom even outside the meetings

Remember... it's all about putting God's truth into action in our everyday lives

Opening Thoughts

- ✓ Asking congregation to pray for LT and Acts 13 Team is important
- ✓ 2022 is important and will require the best of us
- ✓ Need to tweak the concept that "all of life is in the context of spiritual warfare" to "all of life is in the context of God's mission and spiritual warfare is the means"

Opening Exercise - compare and contrast

1. What are the cultural things about Christmas?

2. What are the Biblical things about Christmas?

Video Notes

- **Herod's Building Program**

- **How Herod benefited the Israelites**

- **Jesus' arrival different than Herod's lifestyle**

- **The Reaction of the Shepherds and Wisemen**

- **Herod's response to Jesus' arrival**

- **Legacy of each**

APPLICATION:

- ✓ What would Israelites be thinking/ expecting of Messiah in context of Herod's success, strength and fame?

- ✓ Beginning of Herod vs Beginning of Jesus. Context of ER vs. HR
How is this an example of Earthly Realm vs. Heavenly Realm thinking and living?

- ✓ Knees and nudges lived out by Joseph listening and obeying
 - Matthew 1:18-25
 - Matthew 2:13-15
 - Matthew 2:19-23

- ✓ Believing vs. Believing Loyalty and context of Mission with spiritual warfare
 - Matt 2:1-12 - Herod's attack on Messiah when wise men came

- ✓ Why do we strive to have more when Jesus arrived to nothing and never tried to get much?
 - Luke 2:8-20

 - 1 Corinthians 1:18-30

TAKEAWAYS:



New Song
Community Church

