

5. What are some stories (books, film, TV) that seemingly alluded to the Biblical narrative OR evoked your connection to the story of God?

6. What are some ways God has shown you your need for change in light of prayerful reflection?

7. What are some ways God is calling you to reflect His story to the world?

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

O Holy Night - Part 1

“Long Lay the World in Sin and Error Pining”

Luke 1:5-25, 64-79

3 Simple Practices to Brighten Your Christmas Season

1. Reflect on God's _____.

“Do not be afraid.”(v. 13) - _____

“Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son.”(v.13) _____

“He is never to take wine or other fermented drink.”(v.15) _____

“He will bring many of the people of Israel to the Lord.” (v. 16) _____

“He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children.” (v. 17) _____

(Extra Credit: name at least 5 more books alluded to in this birth announcement.)

2. Reflect on your own _____.

We need to see our story as in and a part of God's story.

“Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards.”

-Soren Kierkegaard

3. Reflect God's story to the _____.

Luke 1:64-79

What if we shared the story of God in a way that had our neighbors in awe and talking all about it?

Best way to reflect God's story:

- Know God's story.
- Know your own story in light of God's story.

"When God "saves" people in this life, by working through His Spirit to bring them to faith, and by leading them to follow Jesus in discipleship, prayer, holiness, hope and love, such people are designed – it isn't too strong a word – to be a sign and foretaste of what God wants to do for the entire cosmos. What's more, such people are not just to be a sign and foretaste of that ultimate "salvation"; they are to be part of the means by which God makes this happen in both the present and the future." - NT Wright

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. What is the longest amount of time you have gone without talking?
3. Read Luke 1:68-79. What stands out to you from this passage?
4. What Biblical story(ies) have become richer as you saw the larger landscape of them?