

UNWRAPPING THE GREATEST GIFT

Christmas, 2012 • René Schlaepfer

where and when was JESUS BORN?

*Jesus was born in **Bethlehem** in Judea, during the time of **King Herod**...* MATTHEW 2:1A

how was JESUS BORN?

*She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a **manger**...* LUKE 2:7

*And this will be a sign to you: You will find the baby wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a **manger**.* LUKE 2:12

*So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a **manger**.* LUKE 2:16

who was this BABY?

For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily. COLOSSIANS 2:9

why was JESUS BORN?

God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself. 2 CORINTHIANS 5:19

what do I do now?

*The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world... to all who received him, to those who **believed** in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.* JOHN 1:9,12

new series next weekend: "your home, your castle"

Many people spend a lot of time and money building their dream homes, but the best way to improve your home is to build into the lives of your loved ones. Learn biblical principles about having a positive effect on your family.

AILY MEDITATIONS

The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. JOHN 1:9

monday

Spend some time today simply re-reading the Christmas story in Luke 2:1–20. Three times it's emphasized that Jesus was laid in a manger, a feeding trough for animals. Why is this an important detail? What does this mean to you?

Thank God that He comes for all the people, even for the most unlikely — like outcast shepherds, and you and me! Ask Him to help you see all people as objects of His love.

tuesday

Read Isaiah 9:6. Choose one of these titles of the Messiah and answer this question: How have you experienced Jesus to be like this in your life?

Thank God today for each of the names of Jesus you studied today.

wednesday

What was the most joyful part of your Christmas day? Sometimes the busyness of the season can drain us of joy and wonder. Read Psalm 40. Write down the reasons for wonder you see in this passage. How do these verses encourage you?

Revisit the reasons for wonder in this passage and thank God for each one.

thursday

Look up the post-Christmas scene in Matthew 2:1–12. Why was Herod “disturbed”? (v. 3b) What disturbs you? Write at least one thing down. How do the magi respond when they see the baby Jesus? Take some time today to worship him too.

Thank God specifically for some blessings you experienced in 2012.

friday

Read Philippians 2:1–11. Starting in verse 5, Paul essentially describes what Christmas must have been like for Jesus! Paul says we are to have the same attitude Jesus had when he became human. What do you think he means by that? In what practical ways can you do this in the coming year?

Please pray for this weekend's services as we start our new series. Thanks!

saturday

Read Deuteronomy 31:8, a great verse to meditate on as we enter a new year. Take time today to pray over this verse. Ask God to build this kind of faithfulness in you in 2013.

Thank God today for new beginnings. Thank Him for always going before you and for saving you. Pray that your light will shine bright and point people toward Jesus.