

Your Questions about Christmas

Did the Christmas story really happen? Wasn't Christmas originally a pagan holiday? Why do some churches celebrate Advent? Join *Groundwork* as we dig into Scripture to answer commonly asked questions about Christmas and Advent.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- Do you remember the first time you heard the story of Jesus' birth?
- What Advent or Christmas traditions are important to you? Do you ever wonder how these traditions got started?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Your Questions about Christmas](#)

READ [Luke 2:1-7](#), [John 1:5](#), [Isaiah 53:4-6](#), [Psalm 78:1-6](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- In segment 1, hosts Scott Hoezee and Darrell Delaney discuss reasons why we believe the Christmas story is true: 1) because we believe the Holy Spirit inspired Luke to research and write it, 2) the specific names of Roman leaders are verifiable in other non-biblical historical sources, and 3) it's unlikeliness gives it credibility. Which of these reasons resonates with you most?
- In segment 2, Darrell and Scott discuss the origins of celebrating Christ's birth on December 25, noting that there was the pagan celebration of Saturnalia and Winter Solstice when they would celebrate light and honor Caesar. The early Christians chose to celebrate the birth of Jesus and honor the real light of the world instead. How do Christians still use aspects of culture to honor God and share Jesus with the world?
- Have you ever considered observing Advent as a spiritual discipline? Do you think that's an accurate description? Why or why not?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[John 1:1-14](#), [Matthew 1:18-2:12](#), [Revelation 12:4-6](#), [Luke 1:26-56](#), [Psalm 77:11-15](#), [Matthew 25:1-13](#), [Leviticus 23](#), [Deuteronomy 6:4-9](#)

CONCLUSION

As we await Christ's second advent, we continue to celebrate Advent and Christmas as a way of remembering and sharing the story of Jesus. In segment 3, Darrell says, "We love to tell the story because not only does it refresh our faith to tell the story again, but when we get to tell it to younger people, or people who haven't heard this message, the good news becomes good indeed, because they see the hope in it, and they see the love of God in it."

What opportunities will you have this Christmas to share the story of Jesus' birth and the reason for his coming?

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/your-questions-about-christmas>

Printed on December 26, 2024