



# 2

# 4

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## More Than JUST lesson 3— a Manger passionate worship

### \*Review

1. just like God used “misfits” in Jesus’ lineage, He seeks to use us, no matter our failures
2. we must be careful to not “miss” Jesus this Christmas, as the Jews did years ago
3. 3 Commitments for this Christmas Season:
  1. It’s not for me, it’s all for them (lost who need to hear the true meaning of Christmas)
  2. It’s not about me, it’s all about Him
  3. Worshiping Christ again and again

Q. What is one gift you’ve always wanted, but have never received?

Q. Have you ever been in the situation where you got to hold the gift? Maybe test drive or play with it?

### I. Uncontrollable Worship

#### A. Simeon (**Luke 2:25-35**)

I want you to think about the greatest gift you’ve ever desired. Maybe it is something you’ve desired for years and have never grasped it. Maybe it is something that you will never be able to grasp. Keep those feelings in your mind and walk with me as we look at a similar story. There was young child who remembered hearing his parents talking about this “thing”. He would try to listen in on their conversations, but he could only make out a few words. All he could tell, was that this thing was something they desired, but felt like they would never be able to grasp. As he became older, his parents began to share with them about this desire of theirs. They shared about this gift that they hoped one day they would have. As his parents began to age and they realized that this dream of theirs would never happen, they began to instill in their son that maybe one day he would be the one to receive the gift.

As his parents passed away and as he grew older he had an encounter with the Holy Spirit who revealed to him that, unlike those before him, he would have the opportunity to experience the gift before he died. That special day he finally laid eyes on the gift he had heard about for so many years. It was far beyond what he could ever imagine. The best part was when the gift was handed to him. He looked at the gift and began to weep. In a small voice, he managed to whimper aloud to God, “Master, I can now die in peace. I have now witnessed in person Your salvation You had promised for so many years. I now behold the one who will be the salvation for the Jews and the Gentiles.” For this special gift he beheld was none other than the baby Jesus.

\*So, what would you do if you were in Simeon’s shoes?

\*Read **John 1:14**. We have both seen and many of us have taken hold of Christ. But tonight, we will look at what our response is to this free gift.

## B. Other Examples

- A. MARY (**Luke 1:46-55**)
- B. ANGELS (**Luke 2:8-14**)
- C. SHEPHERDS (**Luke 2:8-20**)
- D. WISE MEN (**Matthew 2:10-11**)

\*Break into 4 groups. Each group will take one of the passages above and answer the following questions.

1. In what way did they encounter/meet Christ?
2. In what unique way did they react to this encounter with Christ?
3. In what way did this encounter change them (it may not specifically say)?

\*Then, write on the given poster board the ways they worshipped Christ.

## II. Recognizing Our Encounters with Christ

### A. Remembering our own initial encounter

1. Describe the first time you realized your need for Christ. Where were you? Who was involved? What was being taught? Did you immediately respond?
2. Describe the moment when you gave your life to Christ. Did someone help lead you? Did you come forward in a church/youth service? Were you baptized?
3. How did this original encounter with Christ change you immediately? Did it affect your personality or joy? Were there things in your life that changed?

### B. Remembering other special encounters

1. Since becoming a Christian, list 1 other monumental time where Christ openly revealed himself to you. Was it an event or a service? Was it something in private? Describe the feelings and circumstances.
2. How did this encounter with Christ immediately affect you?

**Ask Yourself:** What have I made of Christmas? Is it more about me than it is about Him?

**Ask Yourself:** What are some specific ways I can focus my worship on Him this Christmas?

### 3 Commitments for this Christmas Season:

1. It's not for me, it's all for them
2. It's not about me, it's all about Him
3. Worshiping Christ again and again