**Life Teams Week of December 2 – Christmas wk 1 – How it all Began**

* What was your favorite present you ever received at Christmas?
* Why was it your favorite?
* Did you ever try top sneak a peak at your gifts?

**HOW IT ALL BEGAN**

Sunday, we read the story before the story – Zechariah and Elizabeth.

Read as a group – or recap the entire story - Luke 1:5-25

* What part stands out to you the most about that story?

**The Story Before the Story – FOUR THINGS JUMP OUT**

**1. God's story always starts with obedience**

Exodus 19:5, 1 Kings 2:3, John 14:15, 23, John 15:14, Luke 11:28

James 1:22, Proverbs 10:17,

Every story in the bible begins with a moment of decision - will I obey God or run from God? The Christmas story is no different.

* Why do you think obedient is so important being a part of God’s story?

**Obedience is =** Doing what's right in God's eyes, not ours.

* How often do we judge what is right in our own eyes, rather than the authority God has placed in out life?
* What does obeying God look like?
  + Obeying authority, law, His Word, His Spirit, etc.

**2. Christmas has to change who we are at home first**

Christmas is not about church being different – but our lives being different. For Zack & Lizzy the story started at home: their walk w/ God, their faith, their family.

* How would you define faith?

**Faith is =** Trusting God's Word, not our circumstances.

Hebrews 11:1-3, Romans 10:17, 1 Corinthians 2:5, 2 Corinthians 5:7, Luke 1:37

* Who is our faith in?
* Some might think faith in themselves, what is the problem with that?
* 2 Cor 5:7 says to walk by faith no by sight – what does that mean?
* Does walking in faith mean that you understand what you are doing or believe it?

Not necessarily – that is why it is considered faith.

* How does this play out in our home life / personal life first?

**3. Accept how God sees us, not how we see ourselves**

Zack & Lizzy – saw themselves as too old and past the time that God could use them – But God saw something different.

* Has that ever happened to you? How?
* How might our past affect how we see our future?
* What are some of the things God word says about you?
* What does this verse tell us about seeing ourselves the way God sees us?

Proverbs 3:5-8

**4. To be in God's story: we must follow his script**

* What is the script of God? God’s Word.

*I like to say:*

* God is the writer - writes the story
* God is the producer – funds the story
* God is the director – directs the steps
* God is the casting director – picks the characters
* God is the editor – decides what stays
* Jesus is the main character and star
* We are simply the extras in the background
* How do we follow God’s script?
* How can we apply this to our Christmas story?

**Break into small group – pray for each other.**

Next week the gift is unwrapped – Jesus is born.

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Luke 1:5-25 – Zechariah and Elizabeth.

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