



**Here's a great idea—
Invite your friends to church
this Christmas season!**

*....or **4 REASONS** why I should bother to pray, ask, and remind people to come when I'd rather just relax and sit around munching sugar cookies.*

1. Life is scary

The economy, war, terrorism, ill health—there is a lot to be afraid of in our world today. But those who have met the One who calms storms, know that though the journey might be challenging, we are ultimately promised a safe harbor. Invite your friends to meet Jesus, the only reliable guide through scary times.

2. People are lonely

Lies, abandonment, abuse, disappointment—no matter how wonderful the person or relationship, there are times when the best of human companionship will disappoint. That's because, as St. Augustine said, we all have a God-shaped place inside that only Jesus can fill. Invite your friends to meet Jesus, the only person whose love will never fail through all of life, death, and into eternity.

3. Everyone needs a purpose

As a former Watergate conspirator said, many folks live their lives climbing the ladder of success only to realize it was leaning against the wrong wall. Jesus resurrection provides us with the power to live lives of significant purpose and to discern between true and false success. Invite your friends to discover Jesus, the only compass to guide you to a life of genuine, meaningful purpose.

4. We're all going to live forever

Most folks today believe that and the Bible agrees. The question is, if you are going to live forever, what neighborhood will you live in? Jesus promises that for those who believe in Him they will live in an eternal neighborhood of light, joy, purpose, and companionship with loved ones. But Jesus won't force anyone to live in His neighborhood. Problem is, any place outside His source of light, joy, purpose, and companionship is an eternal place of darkness, pain, regret, and isolation—not a neighborhood we want anyone to live in. Invite your friends to meet Jesus, so they can live forever in the neighborhood of joy.

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People I will pray for and invite:

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Hark the Herald Angels Sing— but why?

*at Christmas did you ever wonder what all the
joyous singing was about?*

It certainly couldn't have been for Jesus.

Leaving the glory of heaven to inhabit a body that would get tired and hurt from a hard day working in the carpenter shop wasn't reason for joy. Then to preach the message he'd been sent to communicate not only to have the majority of folks not believe him, but to crucify him for it—no, the singing wasn't for Jesus.

It probably wasn't for the angels themselves.

It would give them no joy to watch for the next 33 years the incredible wonder of the Creator of the universe playing with little kids, speaking to the storm and quieting it like a child, watching him restore sight and wholeness to the hurting and life itself to a friend who had died, and to have all that love rejected. No, the angels weren't singing for themselves.

I think the angels were singing for us.

The celebration was because they knew Jesus was the true connection between people and God. They knew Jesus could quiet that empty place in each heart that God created and only He can fill. They knew Jesus came to earth to bridge the gap between God and man by his death on the cross. That's why we have Christmas and the angels sang.

Their song is for you if you know Jesus.

If not, if the place is your heart is still empty and without Jesus, this year consider filling it with him.

But think carefully first. Though salvation in Jesus is a free gift, it isn't one without cost. You get it free, but Jesus died to give it to you. Also, if you accept Jesus' gift of salvation, know He takes it very seriously and you won't ever be the same. A new life will start in you, the very life of God.

If you want God's gift in all His fullness, chances are that He might ask for some changes your life to make room for new things He'll want to bring in.



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Don't be afraid; you won't be losing out. You'll be gaining a whole way of life that will be more satisfying than you can imagine. You'll want to read the Bible; you'll want to talk to God in prayer; you'll want to go to a church and meet other members of your new family of God. You'll want to grow spiritually and become all your Creator meant for you to be.

It can be scary. You'll be under new management, but whatever you might be tightly clutching now will seem no more important to you than it does to a child who gladly sets aside a toy tricycle when he realizes his parents have a real bicycle for him.

The first Christmas began with a glorious song from angels, but the song isn't over. Did you know the angels want to sing for you?

The Bible tells us that the angels today sing for joy whenever someone accepts the greatest gift of all—Jesus. If you want that gift, wherever you are, out-loud or in your heart, say something like this to him:

Dear Jesus,

I want the gift you want to give me. I want to be connected with my God this Christmas. I know that I'm not. I know there are things in my life, my sin, my pride, even some of my good deeds that I thought could take me to God, but I know on my own I won't make it. I realize Jesus came to earth that first Christmas to do what I could not do—to die for me, so I can live with you. I don't understand it all, but I want to ask you anyway to come into my life, to be my Savior, to be with me now and forever. Help me to learn what I need to learn and to grow and live a life that will be pleasing to you. Amen.

If you prayed that prayer, listen quietly.

The angels are singing—you may not hear them with your ears, but a song of joy that will never end has begun in your heart.



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**Because he didn't stay
a baby...
we want to tell you
the rest of the story...**

At Christmas we focus on the baby in the manger, the angels' praise, and the shepherds' worship, but there is much more to this story.

The angels' praise and the shepherds' worship weren't solely for a cute baby with a touching back-story about his parent's struggles that

brought them into a barn for their baby's birth.

The praise and worship were for the fulfillment of centuries of prophetic promises. Though their words were often dimly understood and often misinterpreted, the prophets' consistent message was that God had not abandoned a world that had turned its back on Him.

The praise and worship were because the temple sacrifices of thousands of innocent lambs would cease now that the redemption they represented had come to earth. Immanuel, "God with us" was no longer a vague promise, but a baby in the manger. The redemption He would purchase with this death on the cross would pay our sin debt in full.

The praise and worship were for what that baby would become: a teacher, healer, and ultimately the Savior of humanity.

The praise and worship were because that baby was living proof that someday, anyone and everyone, no matter what their past, if they accept the salvation the Savior would offer, could walk with God in peace, full of joy, and forever.

Our church is here to share that story in all its fullness, to answer your questions, and to help you grow as a disciple of Jesus.

We'd consider it a privilege to share it with you and on the back of this piece are opportunities to explore the Christian faith and to interact with us.



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**Oh come let us
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Join us
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***Christ
Is Born!***

Rejoice!

Thank you so much for sharing your Christmas with us. This bookmark is our gift to you with invitations on the back to other events and resources you may enjoy.

May the peace and joy of Christmas fill your life tomorrow and forever.



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We are so glad you shared Christmas with us and we'd love to have you join us for our regularly scheduled activities:

Our regular Services:

Children's:

Youth:

Seniors:

Other church activities:

Did Christmas cause you to wonder, who is Jesus really? We know we don't have all the answers for you in one hour, so we'd to invite you to visit our website, where our pastor has prepared some Q & A about the meaning of Christmas and answer to historical questions about Jesus.

For more interaction with us, please check out:

-  ourwonderfulchurch.com
-  facebook.com/ourwonderfulchurch
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