

LET IT BE CHRISTMAS



sStudy Guide

Here comes the sun

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Brad Watson

INTRODUCTION

God has brought 'up there' down here to make a way for us to really change. When one thinks about how messed up the world is - war, conflict, poverty, disease, the economy - it is easy to lose hope. But it's not just the world out there, it's my world and it's your world too. Maybe it's relationships or finances or how to raise the kids or a familiar sin or struggle in your personal world that has you wondering, can our world - can my world - really change? Have you ever struggled not knowing what way to take, what to do? Jesus declared that He was the Way, the Truth and the Life and no one comes to the Father but by Him. Some people would call that narrow, I call it grace. When I come to grips with all the sin in our world, in the big world out there and my little world in here, I marvel that there is even a way at all.

Begin by reading Luke 20:9-15.

1. Describe a time when you have seen humanity at its worse?
2. Have you ever experienced an injustice?
3. A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. What do you think the meaning of the parable is? Why?
4. What questions, issues, insights strike you about this parable?
5. Who is the man who planted the vineyard? Who are the tenants? Who are the servants? Why do you think Jesus told this parable?

Moving Forward

The history of humanity demonstrates our bent for kicking God out of the driver's seat of our lives and taking over. God, as the perfect lover, continued to try and woo and win us back time and time again. He made promises to Noah, Abraham and Joseph. He sent leaders like Moses and Joshua. He sent Judges, Kings and Prophets and still people did not come home. So, instead of annihilating humanity from planet earth and starting all over, He said, "I'll go. Perhaps if I send My Son, they'll come back." The Advent season is all about getting ready for the next time Jesus comes. I don't want any of us stumbling into Christmas Eve wondering what Christmas is all about. I want us to be ready. What does a heart ready for Jesus' return look like for you?

changing your mind

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son so that whoever believes in Him would not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world but to save the world through Him.

John 3:16-17