



THE STORY

POWERED BY ZONDERVAN

THE STORY **PART 22** **"THE KING IS BORN: A NEW HOPE"**

Introduction: The Jews living in exile had been allowed to return to their promised homeland. They rebuilt the temple and the wall surrounding Jerusalem. After getting close with God, they became rebels again. God sent messengers, including one named Malachi, to warn and encourage their return. Following repeated, unheeded warnings, God went silent for 400 years! But His story wasn't finished! The Roman Empire eventually became the world's super power. God's chosen people lived under their harsh rule. At just the right time God responded by revitalizing His great redemption fulfilling a long expected yet new hope...

Text: *The Story*: Ch 22; **Bible:** Matthew 1-2; Luke 1-2; John 1

Main Idea: God re-vitalizes his redemption project through his Son

Discussion Questions:

1. Icebreaker: If you wanted to demonstrate how much you loved someone in a fresh way, what would you do to make sure they understood?
2. Read John 1:12-13. How would you explain what it means to "believe in..." or "receive" Jesus? What things should you mention in your explanation so they have a sufficient understanding?
3. John 1:14 says that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. John 16:5-15 indicates that Jesus would send God's Spirit to comfort, guide, teach us, etc. Does God's *humanity* and his continuous presence in *all* circumstances (tragic, sinful, other) challenge how you normally *live* out connection and relationship with God? How?
4. Jesus' name means "God saves." Redemption has the idea of coming back from being lost or stuck in a bad way. In Christ believers are redeemed from eternal separation from God, but what have you been unstuck from in this life as part of your redemption?
5. God demonstrated his surpassing love by coming himself to redeem us? How can we best show him our appreciation and continue to live redeemed/redemptive lives?

Pray: *Have various people pray as group rep's for God's help with these*

1. Surrender to Jesus as King
2. Renounce your sin and receive his salvation
3. Respond in/recommit to joyful obedience as a child of God