



ADVENT

Awaiting Hope

Week 4: Love Came Down

The beginning of Luke 2 tells the familiar Christmas story, but what happens after the shepherds leave the manger often goes unnoticed. In these overlooked verses, we see a faithful couple devoted to the law—a law that could not save them—pointing us to the deeper meaning of Christmas: Jesus was born under the law to meet the standard we couldn’t and to rescue us from condemnation. Christmas is the moment Love came down—not to demand more from us, but to invite us to stop striving and receive life as sons and daughters of God.

Discussion Questions:

1. **Read Luke 2:21–24.** Why do you think Luke intentionally includes these details about circumcision, purification, and sacrifice? What does this scene reveal about Mary and Joseph, and how does it open up a deeper meaning of Christmas?
2. Romans 3:19–20 says the law silences every mouth and holds the whole world accountable to God. How does the law “silence” us? In what ways does it expose both our sin and our tendency to justify ourselves?
3. **Read Galatians 4:4–5.** Why was it necessary for Jesus to be “born under the law” in order to redeem us? How does this deepen your understanding of what it cost God to adopt us as sons and daughters? How does the idea of being a child of God help give you a greater understanding of His love?
4. How does Christmas help us see God’s love as a posture toward us? In what ways do you still find yourself trying to earn God’s love, even though you believe in grace? How can you begin to simply receive God’s love instead of striving to earn it?