

Confirmation Week 11 Homework Assignment

Theme of the Week: Examining the stories of Christmas

This week we took a break from our deep theological discussions to instead think about the upcoming Christmas season and what it actually might have looked like. We often have one idea of the story: the angel comes to Mary, then they go to the stable. Shepherds come to visit, as do the wisemen. But that's not necessarily what the Bible says! Over time we have taken two separate stories and *harmonized* them (blended them into one single story).

Complete these two activities to explore this idea further.

ACTIVITY #1: Scripture

1.) Find these passages in your bible, then answer the accompanying questions.

Matthew 1:18 - 2:12:

- Who are the people mentioned in this story? Find as many as you can.
- Think about Christmas pageants or pictures of nativities (Google a picture of one if you don't have one). What is missing in this story? Are there sheep? Are there things or people mentioned that we normally don't include?

Luke 1:26 - 2:20:

- Who are the people mentioned in this story? Find as many as you can.
- Think about Christmas pageants or pictures of nativities (Google a picture of one if you don't have one). What is missing in this story? Are there sheep? Are there things or people mentioned that we normally don't include?

ACTIVITY #2: Compare/Contrast

Answer these questions. Use *at least* 1-2 sentences when asked to explain:

- **Which of the following would you consider to be the theme of Matthew's story?**

Challenge to powerful people

Turning the world upside down

Santa Claus

- **Offer 2 pieces of evidence.**

- **Which of the following would you consider to be the theme of Luke's story?**

Challenge to powerful people

Turning the world upside down

Santa Claus

- **Offer 2 pieces of evidence.**

- **Use the Venn diagram below to compare and contrast the Matthew and Luke stories. What is unique about each one that doesn't appear in the other, and what (if anything) do they both share? Any people, ideas, or settings?**

Matthew's Christmas

Luke's Christmas

