

John 20:24-29, "Christmas Lessons"

1. Life happens suddenly.

<p>Luke 2:9, Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified."</p>	<p>John 20:26, Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. Don't be faithless any longer. Believe!" ²⁸ "My Lord and my God!" Thomas exclaimed.</p>
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2. God wants you discover something.

<p>Luke 2:10-11, but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. ¹¹ The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!"</p>	<p>John 20:28, "My Lord and my God!" Thomas exclaimed.</p>
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3. There is peace for life's troubles.

<p>Luke 2:14, "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."</p>	<p>John 20:26, ... Jesus was standing among them. "Peace be with you," he said.</p>
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4. God welcomes investigation.

<p>Luke 2:15, When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."</p>	<p>John 20:27, Then Jesus said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side."</p>
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5. It's "normal" for God to change lives.

<p>Luke 2:17-18, After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. ⁸All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished.</p>	<p>John 20:25, 27-28, But Thomas said, "I won't believe ..." ²⁷ Jesus told Thomas, "Don't be faithless any longer. Believe!" ²⁸ "My Lord and my God!" Thomas exclaimed.</p>
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6. Belief is main point of Christmas.

<p>Luke 2:20, The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.</p>	<p>John 20:30-31, The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.</p>
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A closing prayer ... "Dear God, teach us this year about the true meaning of Christmas. Help us to be good students! As we believe, change us in astonishing ways. May the mystery and wonder of that first Christmas infect our daily lives today. In Jesus' name, amen."