

Answer Key:

The First Christmas did not start off “Merry”

1. confused / worried
2. hurt / brokenhearted
3. scared / death
4. exhausted

How to make Christmas “Merry”?

- focus / feelings

1. focused / promises

- celebration

2. focused / pain

3. looked up

4. met

Meet me at the Manager

Part 4

“Happy Birthday Jesus!”

1 Timothy 2:5-6 GNT

“For there is one God, and there is one who brings God and human beings together, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself to redeem the whole human race. That was the proof at the right time that God wants everyone to be saved,”

Introductory Statement

Christmas is a celebration of a real event, according to most Americans. Just do not expect them to know exactly why Jesus was born and came to earth, more than 9 in 10 Americans (91%) celebrate Christmas, more than 7 in 10 (72%) say the Jesus Christians believe in was born in Bethlehem more than 2,000 years ago. Most Americans (80%) agree Jesus Christ is the Son of God the Father, while 10 percent disagree, and 10 percent are not sure. The average person is not as sure about the Son of God’s existence prior to Jesus’ birth.

The First Christmas did not start off “Merry”

1. Mary was _____ and

Luke 1:29 GNT / NLT

Mary was deeply troubled, confused, and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean.

2. Joseph was _____ and
_____.

Matthew 1:19

“Joseph was a man who always did what was right, but he did not want to disgrace Mary publicly; so, he made plans to break the engagement privately.”

3. The Shepherds were _____ to
_____.

Luke 2:8-9 NLT

“That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord’s glory surrounded them. They were terrified,”

4. The Wise Men were _____.

Matthew 2:1 CEV

“When Jesus was born in the village of Bethlehem in Judea, Herod was king. During this time, some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem.”

Question for Christmas:

Are you feeling any of these this Christmas?

How to make Christmas “Merry”?

The key: When their _____ changed, their _____ changed.

1. Everything changed for Mary when she _____ on God’s _____

Luke 1:37-38 Message

(The angel told Mary) "Nothing, you see, is impossible with God." And Mary said, 'YES, I SEE IT ALL NOW! I'm the Lord's maid, ready to serve! So let it be with me just as you say.'"

- FROM CONFUSION TO _____!

Luke 1:48 Message

(Mary prayed) "God took one good look at me, and look what happened – I'm the most fortunate woman on earth! What God has done for me will never be forgotten!"

Luke 1: 58 Message

"Mary's neighbors and relatives, seeing that God had overwhelmed her with mercy, celebrated with her!"

2. Everything changed for Joseph when he _____ on God’s plan not his _____.

Matthew 1:20 CEV

"While Joseph was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord appeared to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, the baby that Mary will have is from the Holy Spirit. Go ahead and marry her."

3. Everything changed for the Shepherds when they _____!

Luke 2: 9-17, 20 GNT

"An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They were terribly afraid, but the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very day in David's town your Savior was born—Christ the Lord! And this is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great army of heaven's angels appeared with the angel, singing praises to God: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!" When the angels went away from them back into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this

thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us." So, they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and saw the baby lying in the manger. When the shepherds saw him, they told them what the angel had said about the child. The shepherds went back, singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen; it had been just as the angel had told them."

4. Everything changed for the Wise Men when they

_____ Jesus!

Matthew 2:9-11 GWT

(After leaving King Herod) "Then the star appeared to them again guiding them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! And when they entered the house, they SAW the child with his mother Mary. So, they bowed down and they worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and they gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."

The Christmas gift Jesus offers today

Matthew 11:28-30

JESUS SAID, "If you are tired of carrying a heavy load, and you feel like giving up, come to me and I will give you REST! Yoke up with me and let me teach you how to REALLY LIVE, for I'm gentle and humble, and you'll find YOUR SOUL REFRESHED AND RECOVERED. Living connected to me is far EASIER, and my strength in you will LIGHTEN THE BURDENS you carry!"

Today, A Saviour has been born for you!