

Retreat Resources

Advent/Christmas

DVD Descriptions

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A CLEAR VIEW OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS (DVD9138)

4, thirty minutes sessions:

Why didn't Mary and Joseph go to Elizabeth's house (she lived nearby!) for the birth of Jesus?

Why was the town of Bethlehem so hardhearted that no private home would take them in if there was no room in the inn? If the Holy Family was in a dirty stable, why didn't the shepherds move them at once to their own homes? Dr. Kenneth Bailey answers these and many other questions regarding the Christmas story.

4, 30 minutes sessions:

1. Where was the Manager and What was the Inn
2. Three Surprises, his Ancestors, Joseph and Herod
3. Salvation and the Wisemen
4. Herod's Atrocities and Simeons Welcome

1, four page study guide included within the DVD box

Free study guide available online from EcuFilm

http://www.ecufilm.org/OnlineResources/pdf_resources/ClearViewRevised.pdf Age: YAS 120 mins

BREAK FORTH INTO JOY, HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS, THE CELEBRATION REVOLUTION OF ALEXANDER SCROOGE (DVD9105)

Break Forth Into Joy! Examines our search for fulfillment and security through material possessions. By sharing feelings, thoughts and practical ideas from a variety of people, this video explores consumerism and its effects on people, the earth and the human spirit. With a call for change, Break Forth Into Joy! Encourages people to nurture their communities and their spirits by living more responsibly and joyfully.

Following the main 15-minute segment are three additional 10-minute sections that encourage further thought and discussion on the topics of: freedom and possessions; family and children; and taking action.

Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas: Explore creative ways to de-commercialize Christmas with this provocative video. Vivid photography, music and interviews help us rethink how we observe this holy day. It is an ideal way to introduce people to the idea of celebrating more simply and meaningfully.

The Celebration Revolution of Alexander Scrooge: The great great grandson of the original Scrooge. Alexander reflects on happier simpler celebrations. Listen as he attempts to answer the question: What are you celebrating? He is challenged to honor the reason for the celebrations, and find simpler, less wasteful ways to celebrate. Cartoon presentation.

Discussion questions included within each of the DVD presentations. Audio files included on DVD.

Study guide included within DVD box for the Break Forth into Joy and one for Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas

"©Alternatives for Simple Living. Used by permission. For more ideas to simplify your life, call 800-821-6153 or visit www.SimpleLiving.org." Age: YAS

COUNTERING PHARAOH'S PRODUCTION-CONSUMPTION SOCIETY TODAY (DVD9159)

Ideal for Advent and Lent and flexible in format. Countering

Pharaoh shows how all of God's people—from Israelites fleeing Pharaoh's Egypt and slavery to today's Christians battling consumerism—struggle with the temptation to hang onto the status quo and the things that enslave us rather than step out of our comfort zone and claim God's promise of freedom from sin and bondage. Hosted by Walter Brueggemann, an Old Testament scholar and retired Columbia Theological Seminary professor. A study for those who want to "dig deeper" into study.

5 Sessions are:

1. The Way Out
2. The Decalogue
3. Countering Caesar
4. An Act of Imagination
5. On Not Doing God Any Favors

Includes: a DVD and a CD-Rom with printable written materials for leaders and participants. Age: YAS

STORYTELLERS THE LIFE OF MARY (DVD8067)

A modern day communicator Margaret Feinberg and Bluefish TV create a powerful video sermon illustrations to help add a dramatic and visual style to Mary that your entire congregation will never forget.

Taught in a contemporary setting. 4 printable lesson plans on the DVD

1. Unexpected (3:33)

Mary was only a teenager when the angel Gabriel told her she would carry the Messiah. How do we respond when the Lord comes to us with the unexpected?

2. Unscripted (1:57)

Mary had a long and difficult road ahead of her full of judgment, doubt and worry. Yet, in the midst of it all, she was able to stop and worship.

3. Unfamiliar (2:07)

Mary's experience in the stable shows us that even in the most unfamiliar ways, God can be present and at work.

4. Unfulfilled/Fulfilled (2:13)

God used the obedience of a teenage girl to fulfill Old Testament prophecy. In serving God, she endured great pain so that we might be redeemed.

One DVD with 4 lesson plans on DVD. Copyright does not permit MPEG download. For a preview go directly to the bluefishTV website at:

<http://www.bluefishtv.com/ProductDetails.aspx?cid=1002&id=1432>
Age: HYAS

STORYTELLERS THE LIFE OF NEHEMIAH (DVD8070)

A modern day communicator Marcus Goodloe and Bluefish TV create a powerful video sermon illustrations to help add a dramatic and visual style to Nehemiah that your entire congregation will never forget.

Taught in a contemporary setting. 4 printable lesson plans on the DVD

Nehemiah

1. Dealing with Disaster (1:45)

The devastation of Hurricane Katrina reminds us how Nehemiah felt when Jerusalem was in ruins, and that we must trust God.

2. Comfort Zone (2:00)

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Nehemiah was willing to risk his wealth, position and his life to make a difference. What price are we willing to pay?

3. Broken Walls, Burned Gates (1:50)

Without structure and community, we are as vulnerable as a city without walls. But with God's help, we can rebuild.

4. What do you See? (1:45)

Nehemiah saw destruction, violence and sin. But he also saw what should be: a city rebuilt. And he saw himself as someone who could help.

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Age: HYAS

STORYTELLERS THE LIFE OF NOAH (DVD8068)

A modern day communicator Chris Seay and Bluefish TV create a powerful video sermon illustrations to help add a dramatic and visual style to Noah that your entire congregation will never forget. Taught in a contemporary setting. 4 printable lesson plans on the DVD

Noah

1. A World Full of Evil (2:48)

God is looking for individuals to stand up for Him in a world that was, and still is, full of selfishness and greed.

2. The First Step (1:55)

The task of building the ark was a faith-stretching endeavor. God calls everyone to trust in Him no matter how impossible it seems.

3. Storm of Storms (2:13)

Noah's experience was more than a warm-fuzzy children's story. Hurricanes and tsunamis provide a modern-day glimpse into the despair caused by the flood.

4. God's Promise (1:31)

Despite the storms of life, God uses us to bring hope to others.

Ultimately, the story of Noah is a prelude to our story: the redemption offered through Christ.

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Age: HYAS

Video Descriptions

BETHLEHEM YEAR ZERO (VHS8937)

Six 15-minute segments. The birth of Jesus and surrounding events as TV news would cover it today. A mad tyrant Herod, a turbulent and rebellious people under Roman occupation, mass executions -- all are under the shadow of the greatest astronomical event in 800 years, at a time when astrology was the cutting edge of political science. Here is a program that sheds new light on the events and circumstances surrounding the birth of Jesus. This is no nativity-play treatment of Christ's birth, but an attempt to set it in the real political and social context of the time, based on the best available sources and research. The program is presented in a news format as if the events surrounding Christ's birth were happening now. The incidents are reported by on-the-scene correspondents and political analysts, just as television presents world news today. The reporters discuss the threat to Herod's succession and the danger to him if he fails to control this unruly province. The report on the tax census

discloses the fiscal oppression of the people. Also documented is the instability caused by putting a whole country on the move at a time when gatherings of more than three people could be seen as subversive. This enlightening presentation provides a greater understanding and new appreciation of the world into which Jesus was born. Age: YAS 90 Mins

BETWEEN TWO ALTARS TAPE #1

SESSIONS 1, 2 & 3 (VHS9005)

Tape 1 of 2. Session 1 - The Mind: Conformed or Transformed? Session 2 - The Body: Idol or Temple? Session 3 - Work: Calling or Curse? Discussion of issues that Christians face in living out their faith in today's world--contemporary culture's overemphasis on consumption, idolizing the body's physical appearance and beauty, finding enjoyment and meaning in work, the proper pursuit and use of wealth, befriending strangers and aliens, and guarding against the ever-growing power of technology. Age: A 30 Mins

BETWEEN TWO ALTARS TAPE #2

SESSIONS 4, 5 & 6 (VHS9006)

Tape 2 of 2. Session 4 - Wealth: Blessing or Barrier? Session 5 - The Neighbor: Stranger or Friend? Session 6 - Technology: Servant or Master? Discussion of issues that Christians face in living out their faith in today's world--contemporary culture's overemphasis on consumption, idolizing the body's physical appearance and beauty, finding enjoyment and meaning in work, the proper pursuit and use of wealth, befriending strangers and aliens, and guarding against the ever-growing power of technology. Age: A 30 Mins

FAITH LESSONS ON THE TRUE CHRISTMAS STORY (VHS8819)

Can be used in two sessions. 1) The True Christmas Story. 2) Living Water. Herod the Great. Jesus the King. Discover fascinating truths about the events surrounding the birth of Jesus. Hunch within the dank, sooty mouth of a cave much like the one in which Jesus was born. See true mangers, hewn not of lumber, but from solid blocks of rock. Your journey begins, though, not in these shadows of squalor, but at the shining heights of power and opulence: Herod's palace. Its ruins will astound you with their sheer magnitude. Ray Vander Laan weaves the archaeological evidence with biblical teachings and the historical record to contrast two kings: Herod and Jesus. The True Christmas Story is strikingly relevant, packed with faith-building truths, and sure to speak to your heart well beyond the Christmas season. Age: YAS 45 Mins