

**“Home Alone”**  
Series: “*Christmas Classics*”  
(Part 2 of 4)

**Open:** What do you look forward to most about Christmas (family and friends, gifts, Christmas decorations, time off, or other)?

**Explore:** Read John 5:1-17.

Jesus performed countless miracles during his three years of ministry on the earth. The man in this story lived his life without anyone to help him and he had given up hope of ever being healed. That is until he met Jesus...

1. For what event did Jesus go to Jerusalem (vs. 1)?
2. What type of people gathered at the pool near the sheep gate (vs. 2-5)? How long had the man Jesus spoke to been at the pool?
3. What question did Jesus ask the man (vs. 6-8)? What does the man’s response tell us about his emotional state? ...about Jesus’ concern for the lonely?
4. What were the religious leaders more concerned with: the miracle or the fact that the man was breaking one of the rules for the Sabbath (vs. 9-15)?

**Reflect:** Review the LG and discuss the questions below.

1. Have you ever spent the holidays away from home or home alone? Explain.
2. What thoughts must have ran through Joseph’s head when he found out his fiancé was pregnant? Do you know someone (don’t mention names) who may be feeling betrayed or abandoned this year?
3. Joseph dealt with the pressure of traveling with Mary for a national census. What real-life obstacles did they face? What pressures (if any) have you been dealing with this year?
4. God willing we will never flee for our lives as Mary and Joseph did – but that doesn’t mean we never experience fear. How can the stress of life impact a person’s faith in God?
5. Joseph is rarely mentioned in the Bible yet he played a key role in history. More importantly God was with Him every step of the way. How will this truth encourage you in the weeks and months ahead?

**Live:**

As a group: The Christmas season can be very difficult for people who are already hurting or lonely. As a group make it a point to invite someone to your Christmas party or out to dinner this year.

On your own: Take time to reflect on this past year. Was there a time you were feeling alone? Looking back can you see God walking with you? Thank God for the example of Joseph and for never leaving you home alone.

## Listening Guide Notes

**It feels like you’re all alone...**

1. When the feeling of betrayal is devastating.

*“This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.”*

**-Matthew 1:18 (NIV)**

*“We’re not illegitimate children...” -John 8:41 (NIV)*

*“Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.” -Matthew 1:19 (NIV)*

*“I lie awake; I have become like a bird alone on a roof.”*

**-Psalm 102:7 (NIV)**

<sup>[20]</sup> *“But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>[21]</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.’” -*

**Matthew 1:20-21 (NIV)**

<sup>[24]</sup> *“When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>[25]</sup> But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.” -Matthew 1:24-25 (NIV)*

2. When the pressure of responsibility is overwhelming.

<sup>[1]</sup> *“Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world... <sup>[3]</sup> And everyone went to his own town to register. <sup>[4]</sup> Joseph went up... to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>[5]</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.”*

**-Luke 2:1, 3-5 (NIV)**

3. When the job of protector is frightening.

<sup>[13]</sup> *“When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. ‘Get up,’ he said, ‘take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.’ <sup>[14]</sup> So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, <sup>[15]</sup> where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: ‘Out of Egypt I called my son.’”*

**-Matthew 2:13-15 (NIV)**

4. When the rank of second place becomes a lifestyle.