

**“Spiritual vs. Material”**  
*Series: Christian Conflict*  
*(Part 3 of 4)*

**Open:** Growing up, what was one gift you always wanted for Christmas but never received?

**Explore:** Read 1 Timothy 6:3-10.

The book of Timothy was written to a young pastor charged with shepherding the church. Paul gives advice in a variety of topics, but saves the best for last.... money. In this section, we find the meaning of true wealth.

1. Who does Paul warn Timothy to look out for in this section (vs. 3-5)? How do they view godliness?
2. How does Paul define the pathway to true wealth (vs. 6)?
3. What point is Paul trying to make in verses 7-8? Why is contentment such a difficult thing to maintain?
4. What price are some people eager to pay for money (vs. 9-10)? In what way can the pursuit of money cause grief in a person’s life?

**Reflect:** Review key points from the lesson before answering the questions.

1. Are you ready for Christmas? a) Yes, everything is finished. b) I’m getting close. or c) I’ve still got until Christmas Eve.
2. Without Jesus there would be no Christmas. What traditions or holiday activities can be a distraction from the true meaning of Christmas? ...can help people to focus on Christ?
3. The Shepherds would have been most comfortable in the fields, but they went into town to see the Savior of the world. What might it look like to get out of your comfort zone to follow after Jesus this Christmas?
4. Why is Christmas such an easy time of the year to talk about faith? Who do you know that you will intentionally share the Christmas story with or invite to Christmas Eve services this year?
5. One easy way to find joy during this season is to focus on the things for which you are thankful. Share with the group two things for which you are extremely thankful.

**Apply:** Live it.

As a CARE Group: One of the greatest gifts your group can give this year is the gift of community. Write down the names of people you will intentionally invite to your CARE Group this week / month (invite them to your Christmas party).

As an individual: The Christmas story is the most important event in all of human history. God gave the world the greatest gift – His Son. Write down the name of at least one person you will share this good news with this week (invite them to Christmas Eve services).

## Listening Guide Notes

*“There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.” –Luke 2:8 (NIV)*

<sup>[10]</sup> *“But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>[11]</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>[12]</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.’” –Luke 2:10-12 (NIV)*

*“When the angels had left them and gone 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 about.’” –Luke 2:15 (NIV)*

### Lessons from the shepherds...

1. Pursue Jesus above all else.
2. Get out of your comfort zone to follow after Jesus.
3. Let your encounter with Jesus be known.

<sup>[17]</sup> *“When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>[18]</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.” –Luke 2:17-18 (NIV)*

4. Do life with a different attitude.

*“The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.” –Luke 2:20 (NIV)*