

MESSAGE NOTES
Emmanuel in the Mess
THE LONELINESS OF CHRISTMAS
Pastor Brian Miller

***Luke 1** ²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." ³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God."*

5 WAYS TO OVERCOME THE LONELINESS OF CHRISTMAS

1. **ACKNOWLEDGE** your pain.

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." Psalm 34:18

The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still." Exodus 14:14

*"While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them."
Luke 2:6-7*

2. **SEEK** relief and strength in **HIS PRESENCE**.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." Romans 15:13 ESV

*"My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."
Psalm 73:26*

3. **ASSIST** those in need.

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." Hebrews 13:16

4. **PRAY** for other sufferers.

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” Ephesians 6:18

5. **FIX** your hope on the **GLORY** to come.

***Luke 2**²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: ²⁹ “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. ³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”*

“And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’” Revelation 21:3-4

**All scriptures in NIV unless specified*

ACTION STEPS:

Read Luke 2:41-52

Sign up to help with Operation Christmas Child

Invite someone to Christmas Eve