

Christmas and the Kingdom Glorify

“A sense of belonging appears to be a basic human need – as basic as food and shelter. In fact, social support may be one of the critical elements distinguishing those who remain healthy from those who become ill.” – **Dr. Kenneth Pelletier of the Stanford Center for Research and Disease Prevention.**

1. We bring glory to God simply by belonging to Jesus and to each other. *John 17:9-10; Ephesians 1:3-5; John 17:20-24*

2. We bring glory to God by becoming more like Christ in fruitfulness; This includes being and doing.

- **Be more fruitful.** *John 15:8; Philippians 1:9-11; Romans 6:13-14*
 - **Become more accepting of each other in Christ.** *Romans 15:5-7*
 - **Become Press Agents for God- tell people everywhere about God’s goodness in my life.** *Romans 1:5*
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3. We share God’s glory when we trust Christ through the ups and downs of life. *2 Corinthians 4:17; 2 Corinthians 12:9-11; 1 Peter 4:12-14*

Next week’s reading guide:

John 3:1-17
1 Peter 1:3-12
Romans 3:21-32
Romans 5:1-11
Philippians 3:5-11
Titus 3:3-7
Ephesians 2:1-18

Discussion Questions:

1. Where do you feel you belong the most? Where do you feel the most “known” and accepted? Who do you most “know” and accept?
2. What has changed the most in your character since receiving Christ? How are you “more” than you were before?
3. Think of a trial you have faced that you invited Christ into in 2014. How was He glorified in it?
4. What trial are you facing as you enter 2015? How can you invite Christ into that trial?
5. How do you interpret being “weak” so that Christ’s grace and strength can be made “perfect”?