



POINT AFTER

Christmas is Here!



BY MARK CHALEMIN
Director of Education

Don't panic! You still have well over two months to do all your shopping! However, the spirit of Christmas has already arrived in nearly 600 Bible studies across the country.

The reason for the season's early start is our new study, *God's Game Plan—Unwrapping His Perfect Gift*. It's the story of Christ's birth as told in the Gospels. We're taking off the familiar bow to discover Christ's life in a fresh way. We're unwrapping Christ's full deity and eternal life with His Heavenly Father as well as unwrapping Christ's full humanity and temporary life with His earthly parents.

One of the most exciting elements of this study is how it introduces and explains the preparation, planning, and purpose behind the birth of our Savior. God *prepared* for his birth by first speaking through the Prophets with increasing clarity and specific information. God *planned* for his birth by sovereignly placing all the

people for his earlier prophecies to be fulfilled. Yet, all of God's preparation and planning would be pointless without achieving God's *purpose*. As Jesus himself told his disciples, "*The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many*" (Mark 10:45). That's why Jesus came into our world.

Now, here's the exciting part. The story of Christmas doesn't end at the stable or the cross. It doesn't even end at the resurrection. It continues on as you and I bring Jesus into our world. The various Gospel accounts of his birth carry personal relevance because, as we bring Christ into our world, we face the same reception as those we read about on the pages of Holy Scripture.

Some, like Elizabeth, Mary, Joseph, and the Magi were overjoyed at the news to the point of great sacrifice, even risking their own lives to make it possible. Others, like Herod, were outraged at the news to the point of aggression, even taking the lives of the innocent, in their feeble attempt to make it impossible.

We pray that God will continue using you to unwrap His Perfect Gift and bring Christ into *your* world with the message of salvation. As you do, let me be the first to wish you a very Merry Christmas!

PRAY FOR:

Bible studies

- The *God's Game Plan* study to challenge and encourage all of our coaches.

Marriages

- The Lord to keep marriages strong.
- *The Reach* to impact coaches' wives.
- Attendees of our Marriage Retreats to continue the steps they began last summer.

Coaches

- The safety of all students in athletic events.
- Strength and boldness as they impact thousands of youth in the name of Jesus Christ.

Bible study Lay Leaders

- Them to encourage their coaches and be encouraged for their faithful service.

Funding

- That the Lord will abundantly provide the funds for all upcoming events, such as the Annual Banquet (Feb. 2) and the 2019 Summer Marriage Retreats.

God's Gift in Everyday Wrapping

This fall, *The Reach* is studying events surrounding Jesus' birth. We can contrast Mary's position of favor and blessing with some heartbreaking realities. Scripture refers to the Bethlehem moment in a rather unflashy sort of way as Mary's birth pains intensified. "*While they were there the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn*" (Luke 2:6-7). How anticlimactic! Yet everything went exactly as planned.

Bethlehem was synonymous with sacrificial lambs. Its hills contained thousands of lambs destined for the Temple's sin sacrifice every morning and evening. Firstborn male lambs were wrapped in swaddling cloths to

be kept "without spot or blemish" upon inspection. Luke 2:6-7 is a "sign," or, reminder of the sacrificial system, an Old Testament picture that foreshadows and points forward to Jesus.

Throughout Scripture, a scarlet thread of sacrificial blood is woven into the lives of people who experienced heartbreaking realities while doing hard things in a bigger story. And, because of the blood sacrifice, they found favor with God, pointing to Jesus and the sacrifice he made for us. "*Without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins*" (Hebrews 9:22).

How about you? Is your journey unfolding in an unflashy sort of way? Are you disappointed by some heartbreaking realities as you do hard things in a bigger picture?



ANNE RYON

Director of Women's Ministry

Take heart. The Lord is weaving your story into the lives of others to foreshadow his love.

If you are a coach's wife, or know one, the invitation remains open to join *The Reach*. We filter everyday life through the pages of Scripture, enabling us to be a sign pointing to Jesus.

Please contact me to join over 750 coaches' wives meeting monthly across the nation while receiving encouragement through God's Word!

anne@coachesoutreach.org Search for *The Reach* on Facebook and Instagram

Gifts That Keep on Giving

As wise men brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, this past August, Coaches Outreach brought books to Lay Leaders across Texas. We had a great time visiting friends of CO who serve coaches, facilitating nearly 600 Bible studies throughout the United States. These visits became mutual gifts of joy, encouragement, and reassurance that through Coaches Outreach and biblical truth, coaches have a far-reaching impact in communities.

At our first stop, Abilene, we met Brad Brevard, a Field Rep in the San Angelo area, and two Lay Leaders. It gave us laughs and coaching stories with great people in the area. One particular retired coach's study meets in Phil Blue's office, the AD in Abilene.

These former coaches are grounded in God's Word. Studies like these offer tremendous support for Abilene's athletic programs. What a *gift of encouragement* to see former coaches

and athletic administrators take time out of their crazy, busy schedule to impact coaches in their community with Christ-like leadership and far-reaching impact.

Next, we stopped in Lubbock where we visited with Taylor McNeel, a Lay Leader and former college coach who has faithfully served the coaching profession for years. Taylor's long-term ministry in Lubbock as a Lay Leader has tremendously impacted the lives of many coaches. Being with him was a *gift of joy!* Coach McNeel truly lives to transform coaches' lives through Christ-like leadership.

The following week, we visited many more Lay Leaders in Houston. It was exciting to see Coach Richard Lazarou of Fort Bend Willowridge HS and his enthusiasm for the coaching profession and their ability

to influence a community by reaching kids with the gospel of Christ. His personal walk with Christ is contagious and reflects his passion.

His far-reaching, influence is felt throughout his high school, where he has bridged a close partnership with his church. Together, they serve families with resources like clothing, food, and school supplies. This *gift of reassurance* offers hope through coaches who live to impact kids for Christ. Coach Lazarou lives to impact the community by exemplifying the character of Christ.

These are only three examples of over 600 Lay Leaders serving coaches across the country, every day. The gift of God's Word continues to reach communities and transform lives!



MIKE BREEDEN

Director of Field Ministries



ROBERT IRION
Director of Operations

The theme verse for the 2018 Summer Marriage Retreats was “Rejoice in hope, endure in suffering, persist in prayer” - Romans 12:12 (NET). What

a wonderful verse and what a wonderful summer!

We held Retreats in five locations again this summer – T Bar M Resort in New Braunfels, TX; Marriott Grand National in Opelika, AL; Hilton Garden Inn in Granbury, TX; Tanglewood Resort in Pottsboro, TX; and DeGray Lake Resort in Bismarck, AR. We hosted 292 couples (32 more couples than last summer) from 11 states. Here’s a taste of what we saw and heard.

Gifts to a Coach’s Marriage



I am so thankful for a ministry like Coaches Outreach that just gets it! So thankful for a weekend to reset, recharge, and remind ourselves why we do what we do right before the craziness of fall football!

Coming here has been great for our marriage. I am so thankful my Lay Leader paid for us to come.



Absolutely incredible weekend! This will become a yearly trip for us.

Thanks for a great weekend of recharging with my wife. Feeling so blessed to take part in this amazing event.

THANK YOU to everyone...the planning, the speakers, the helpers, and especially the donors that make it all possible. We’ll definitely return and look to bring other coaching couples.



We had a great time for our first retreat and plan on being back next year.



We are so grateful to have found Coaches Outreach. It has made all the difference in our lives.



This is the most humble and honest ministry I have had the privilege to be a part of. The love and service felt as a result of this ministry truly reflect Christ.

Blessed as usual. Fired up about going forward.

My husband and I look forward to this retreat every year. We walk away with something different each summer and always closer to each other and God. We are very grateful for this ministry!



This weekend really helped my marriage. I was always scared to come because I thought it would be judgmental, but it wasn’t. We will be back next year with more coaches. Thank you!

COACHES OUTREACH, INC.

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2019 Marriage Retreats

June 7-9	T-Bar M, New Braunfels, TX
June 14-16	Embassy Suites, Hoover, AL
June 21-23	Hilton Garden Inn, Granbury, TX
June 28 - 30	Tanglewood Resort, Pottsboro, TX
July 12-14	DeGray Lake Resort, Bismarck, AR

Inside this edition

- Christmas is Here!
- Pray with Us
- God's Gift in Everyday Wrapping
- Gifts That Keep On Giving
- Gifts to a Coach's Marriage

GET INVOLVED TODAY

Invest need your time, skills, or abilities in the areas below.

- Data entry (in office): Contact info, reservations, etc.
- Graphics Design: Layout and design for playbooks & newsletters
- Website Transition: Technical expertise to update our ministry
- Prayer Team: Receive specific requests as they come to us.

Please call or email:

Phone: 214-654-0042

Email: info@coachesoutreach.org

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Honorariums & Memorials Fall 2019

In Honor of....

Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Bourland

City Bank (Lubbock)

Chris & Jean Dyer

Fred & Meredith Blitz

David & Ashley Hall

Dan & Janet Chenoweth

Tommy Maxwell

Steve & Ellen Sullivan

In Memory of...

Tanya Baugus

Daphne Bailey

RV Baugus

Jack W. Culberson, Sr.

Jay Culberson

Mike Janszen

Jan Janszen

Dave Smith

Judy Smith

Barbara Walker

Cathy Painter

“You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending.”

- C.S. Lewis