

# Welcome to our Christmas Celebration!

We are glad you chose to join us today to worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We hope that your stay will be both meaningful and memorable.

## Our Mission

We are a church that seeks to bring glory to God, to build the local church through discipleship and to fulfill the Great Commission.



## Announcements

We will be continuing our Christmas sermon series entitled, “**Away in a Manger,**” where we are looking at the Christmas story from the perspectives of five Biblical characters – Isaiah, Mary, Joseph, Shepherds and the Wise Men.

Mark your calendars for our 2020 week-long **Prayer & Fasting** to be held on **January 20-24, 2020**. Let’s start the new year by coming together as a congregation in prayer as we seek God’s favor for our church and for our lives.



## How Can We Pray For You?

It is our privilege to pray for you. You may send your prayer requests by text, by writing them on the prayer cards provided or by sending us a private message on our FB page!



## Discover Life in the Small Groups

We are passionate about community.

We encourage you to join our small groups where we cultivate meaningful relationships and grow in our relationship with God together.

To join a group, you may inquire from our volunteers at the Information Booth.



## Stay for Fellowship Et Refreshments

We invite you to stay for coffee and fellowship after the service. Take the opportunity to meet new friends or inquire about our small groups or about the church.

Our weekend Services are held at the Café Corazon (2nd Floor), Bai Hotel, North Reclamation Area, Mandaue City, every Sunday 10AM-12NN and 1PM-3PM.

\*The Living Word NRA Center is located at the 2/F Northgate Centre, Banilad (across Country Mall and beside University of Cebu-Banilad).

## Get in touch with us:



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LIVING WORD NRA  
Worship God. Advance His Kingdom.

# Away In A MANGER

## THE WHYS OF THE WISE

Matthew 2:1-12

Jirah Mandreza | December 22, 2019 | 1PM Service

## sermon notes



### SERMON THEME/BIG IDEA



### MY NOTES/HIGHLIGHTS

**DAY 4.**  
**UNWANTED OUTSIDERS**

**Read: Luke 2:8-20.**  
Shepherds were social outcasts. They were poor, uneducated, uncultured, and uncouth. They were rough characters in a small town on the fringe of society, so much so that their testimony was not even admissible in court. If you were with your family, walking through town, you would likely go to the other side of the street to avoid them.

Shepherds were religious outsiders. Because of the work of caring for the sheep made them ceremonially unclean, they were not allowed into the temple courts or to be an active part of synagogue worship. Religious leaders often considered them on the same level as prostitutes. When it came to religion, they were always on the outside looking in.

God invited a group of guys who had been labeled as outcasts and outsiders by everyone, and placed them at the top of the invite list for the most important birthday in history.

The shepherds had nothing to offer Jesus. They were not religiously trained or socially polished. Unlike the wise men who would arrive later, they did not have exquisite gifts. These guys lived under the stars with only the clothes on their backs, a staff to guide the sheep, and a rod for protection. They had nothing of value to bring to Jesus except for themselves. That’s exactly what he wanted, and what he still wants today.

**Reflect & Apply.**

- 1. Who are “shepherds” in your circles — social outcasts and religious outsiders? Do you believe that God can use them to impact your community and point people to Him?
- 2. How can God use you to invite them to join Jesus’ mission?

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**DAY 5.**  
**NO ROOM**

**Read: John 1:10-14.**  
*He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. John 1:11 —*

If you have ever been in a busy tourist town during peak season, you may have noticed "no vacancy" signs in front of many motels. These signs simply mean that the motels are full.

Sometimes motels and inns don't have room for people, but sometimes people don't have room for others in their hearts. Maybe a group at school won't make room for someone who isn't as smart or athletic or physically attractive as they are. Maybe at church a group of friends stands around talking after the service but won't make room for newcomers--people who are hurting and longing for a friend.

Luke tells us there was no room for Mary and Joseph in the inn at Bethlehem (Luke 2:7). Jesus was born into a world of people that had no room for him. Later in life he was hated and rejected. "He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him."

In this season, is there room in your heart for the Lord Jesus? So many things can fill our lives and make us busy: family, friends, careers, sports, and the general business of life. But do we have room for the Lord Jesus, and for others who need to know his love?

**Reflect & Apply.**

- 1. Have you ever missed something that was important (event, responsibility, etc.)? What caused you to miss it? What are some reasons that a person can miss something that’s important?
- 2. Jesus started out His earthly life immediately faced with rejection—no room in the inn. He was rejected by his hometown, his own people, even the disciples initially abandoned him. How did Mary and Joseph deal with rejection? How did Jesus respond to rejection? (Think of His statements from the cross)
- 3. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this passage?

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**Living Word NRA**  
**Worship God. Advance His Kingdom.**



**“CHRISTMAS IN THEIR EYES”**  
December 22, 2019

*Questions for Personal Study & Reflection*

This 5-day devotional includes readings with brief commentaries that builds upon the weekend sermon. You are encouraged to take the time to read the Bible passages and meditate on them. On average, you will need 20-30 minutes to complete them.

Reflection questions and applications are intended to invite you to slow down and mediate on the truth that God is teaching you. Daily application steps are also given to help drive the message in practical ways.

