

November 21 and 24 "Christmas: A cosmic battle" Randy Larson

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE:

Gen. 3:14-15

So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this,

"Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

SECONDARY SCRIPTURE:

Revelation 12:1-6, 1 Peter 5:8, Romans 7:15-20

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1. What were some of your favorite children's books growing up? Explain why.
- 2. Traditionally, the story of Christmas is understood through the eyewitness accounts of Matthew (Chapter 1) and Luke (Chapter 2). In what ways do Genesis 3 and Revelation 12 give us a better understanding of the significance of Jesus' birth?
- 3. According to these passages, Christmas was a battle for the souls of man. What does this reveal about the character of God, the human condition, and the state of the world we live in?
- 4. It's common to think that belief in spiritual warfare is superstitious and foolish. In what ways do you see evidence of it in yourself or the world around us? What is at risk if we deny that we are living in a battlefield?
- 5. What about the Christmas story, found in Genesis and Revelation, fills you with wonder and expectation?