

SERMON PREP KIT

Series Theme: Rejection: It's A Christmas Thing

1. General Overview of the Theme

Christmas is culturally painted as a season of perfect belonging, warm family gatherings, and joyful acceptance. Yet, for many, the holidays act as a magnifying glass for feelings of deep rejection, loneliness, and inadequacy. This four-week series, "Rejection: It's A Christmas Thing," flips the cultural script. It explores how the very foundation of the Christmas story is built upon rejection. From scandalous pregnancies to closed doors and ultimately the shadow of the cross, the Incarnation proves that God runs toward the rejected. Through four modern-day vignettes mapped to the biblical nativity, this series will help your congregation see that earthly rejection is often the very place where heavenly grace enters in.

WEEK 1: The Rejection of Inadequacy

Theme Focus: Feeling "not enough" vs. God's deliberate choice of the humble.

Specific Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:26-29 (God chose the foolish things) and Luke 1:46-48 (Mary's song of low estate).

Preface for the Pastor: "Welcome to week one of our Christmas series, 'Rejection: It's A Christmas Thing.' When we think of Christmas, we usually think of acceptance and love. But the truth is, the story of Jesus is bookended by rejection. Today, we are looking at the pain of feeling like we just don't measure up—and how the nativity story shatters the world's rubrics of worth."

Sermon Outline:

- **The Modern Mirror:** The high school junior opening the college rejection letter. The paralyzing fear that we are simply "not smart enough, talented enough, or good enough."
- **The World's Economy:** Society operates on meritocracy, beauty, and status. Rejection happens when our stats don't meet the standard.
- **The Nativity Illustration:** God bypasses Rome and Jerusalem. He bypasses the Pharisees and the wealthy. He chooses a peasant teenager (Mary) and a carpenter with a messy family tree (Joseph) in a backwater town (Nazareth).
- **The Turn:** God's economy is grace. He does not reject us for our inadequacy; He purposely uses our inadequacy to showcase His glory.

Call to Action: "This week, take one earthly rejection you are harboring—a past failure, a 'not good enough' moment—and write it down. Then, write 'Chosen Anyway' over it. Stop trying to measure up to the world's standards and rest in the profound reality that you are chosen by the King."