

# Outline

## Imagine Christmas

### Imagine U Without Me

#### Point# Content

#### How you doin' with the Imagine Me With U with A.R.K.?

#### Summary of the Christmas Story

Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human! Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life. Philippians 2:5-11 TM

#### It's easier for me to Imagine U without Me

Christmas is an easy time to be lonely.

Christmas is an easy time for us to think no one cares about us.

Christmas is an easy time for our imaginations to convince us "The world is just fine without me."

#### Christmas can Haunt us and Paralyze us in lonely hopelessness.

Ghost of Christmas Past haunts us with regrets of mistakes and failures.

Ghost of Christmas Future rises up and threatens us with fear of unknown problems, bills, trials, hurts and failures that might happen in future

#### What's a Christmas Scrooge to do?

Believe that God has a purpose for your life!

What I'm getting at, friends, is that you should simply keep on doing what you've done from the beginning. When I was living among you, you lived in responsive obedience. Now that I'm separated from you, keep it up. Better yet, redouble your efforts. Be energetic in your life of salvation, reverent and sensitive before God. That energy is God's energy, an energy deep within you, God himself willing and working at what will give him the most pleasure.

Philippians 2:12,13 TM

Choose Your Attitude

Do everything readily and cheerfully—no bickering, no second-guessing allowed! Go out into the world uncorrupted, a breath of fresh air in this squalid and polluted society. Provide people with a glimpse of good living and of the living God. Philippians 2:14-16 TM

Refuse to be Haunted and Paralyzed by your imagined Future.

**December 9, 2007**

Even if I am executed here and now, I'll rejoice in being an element in the offering of your faith that you make on Christ's altar, a part of your rejoicing. But turnabout's fair play—you must join me in my rejoicing. Whatever you do, don't feel sorry for me. Philippians 2:17,18

Live in the time period you can control - TODAY!

Be glad in God!...The real believers are the ones the Spirit of God leads to work away at this ministry, filling the air with Christ's praise as we do it. Philippians 3:1-4 TM

Refuse to be Haunted and Paralyzed by your Glorious Past.

We couldn't carry this off by our own efforts, and we know it—even though we can list what many might think are impressive credentials. You know my pedigree...The very credentials these people are waving around as something special, I'm tearing up and throwing out with the trash—along with everything else I used to take credit for. And why? Because of Christ. Yes, all the things I once thought were so important are gone from my life. Philippians 3:5-7 TM

And Your Painful Past

I gave up all that inferior stuff so I could know Christ personally, experience his resurrection power, be a partner in his suffering, and go all the way with him to death itself. Philippians 3:10,11 TM

**December 9, 2007**