

DECEMBER 25, 2016



SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)



ISAIAH 52:7-10

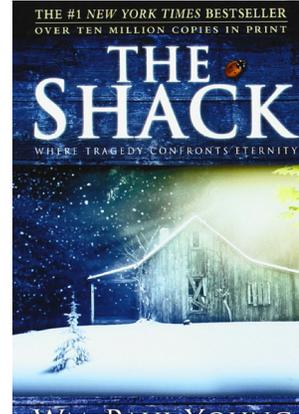
PSALM 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6

HEBREWS 1:1-6

JOHN 1:1-18 OR 1:1-5, 9-14

REFLECTION

The book *The Shack* chronicles one man's encounter with God as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. One of my favorite parts of the book is when the main character is standing in the kitchen with God the Father, who points out two birds in the backyard. He begins to talk about Christ coming to earth as man and uses the birds as an analogy. One bird was unable to fly. Although it would have been easier for the second bird to fly away and leave the first bird behind, instead the two birds hopped around on the ground. God points out that this is what he did when he came to earth as a human. It would have been easier for God to take whatever form was his preference and tell us how to live our lives. Instead, he chose to reveal himself as a human, living as we do, because he knew that would be the best way for us to understand his Kingdom.



THE NATIVITY STORY
(2006, MOVIE)

THE SHACK
BY WM. PAUL YOUNG

ACTION

God knew that in order for us to understand his love for us, we needed to have an example in a language that we understood—the language of humanity. This is the challenge that we are given in bringing the Good News to the world, just as Christ did as a human. Oftentimes, our teachers face the same challenge in their lessons; they are tasked with teaching many people the same thing, though they may not understand it using the same methods. This week, see if you can pick out when teachers are speaking in several different “languages” to get their points across. Math class might be a good place to start looking.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

● Christmas is a time when we celebrate Christ's coming into the world. What are some ways that you can bring Christ into this world in new ways this week, in ways that others will understand?