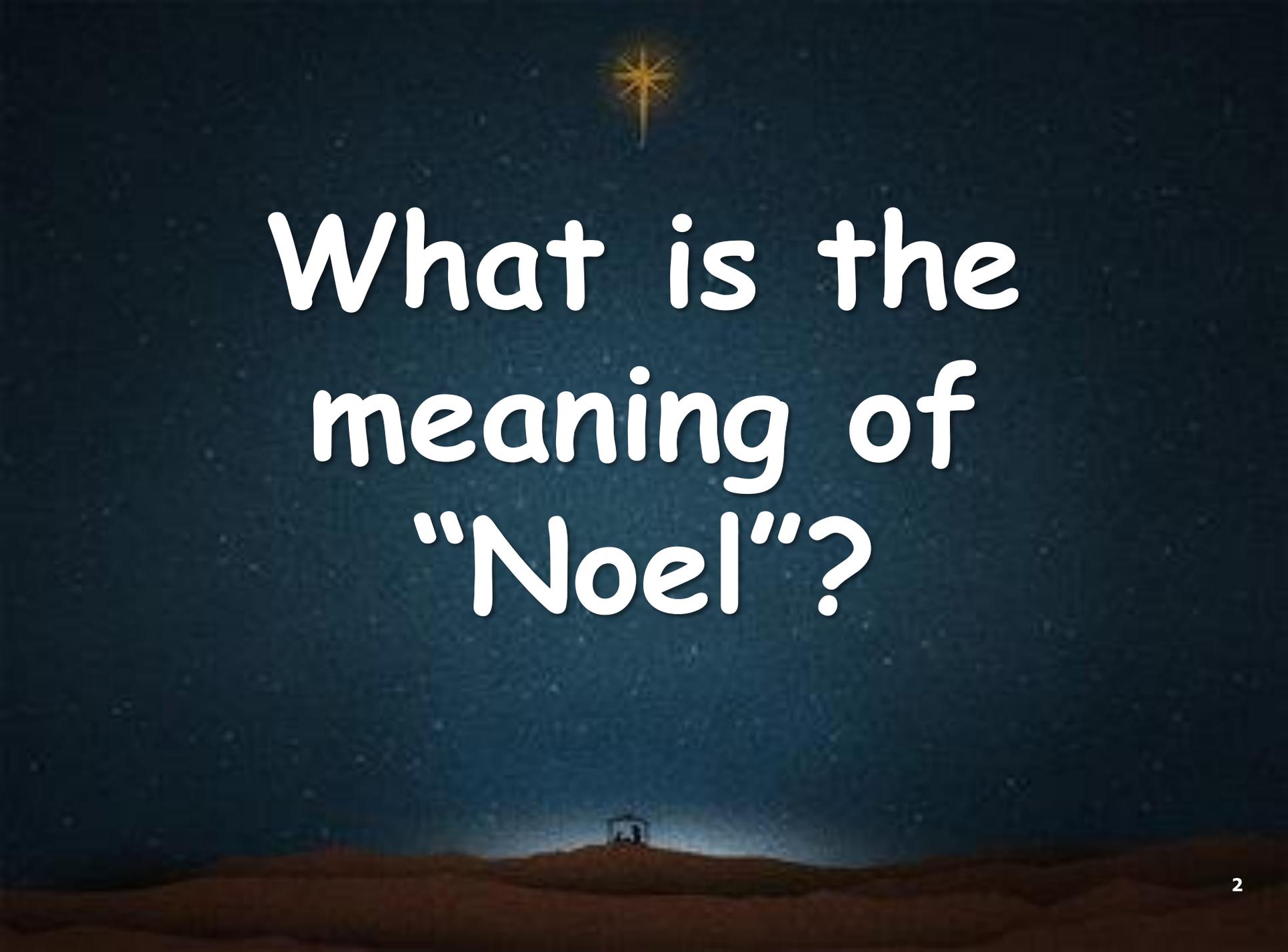




THE FIRST

NOEL



A night sky with a bright, multi-pointed star at the top center. Below the star, the text "What is the meaning of 'Noel'?" is written in a white, rounded font. At the bottom of the image, a small, dark structure is visible on a hill against a dark blue background.

What is the
meaning of
"Noel"?

Christmas Nativity Joke

Place: The Middle School nativity play.

Scene: The Inn at Bethlehem on Christmas Eve.

Joseph: Do you have any room at the inn?

Inn Keeper: (Over-playing his role) Yes, plenty, come on in.

Joseph: [Jaw drops, speechless]

Footnote:

In the nativity play, the inn keeper is supposed to say 'There is no room in the inn', and this is how the baby Jesus came to be born in a stable.

A night sky with a bright star and a small structure on a hill in the foreground.

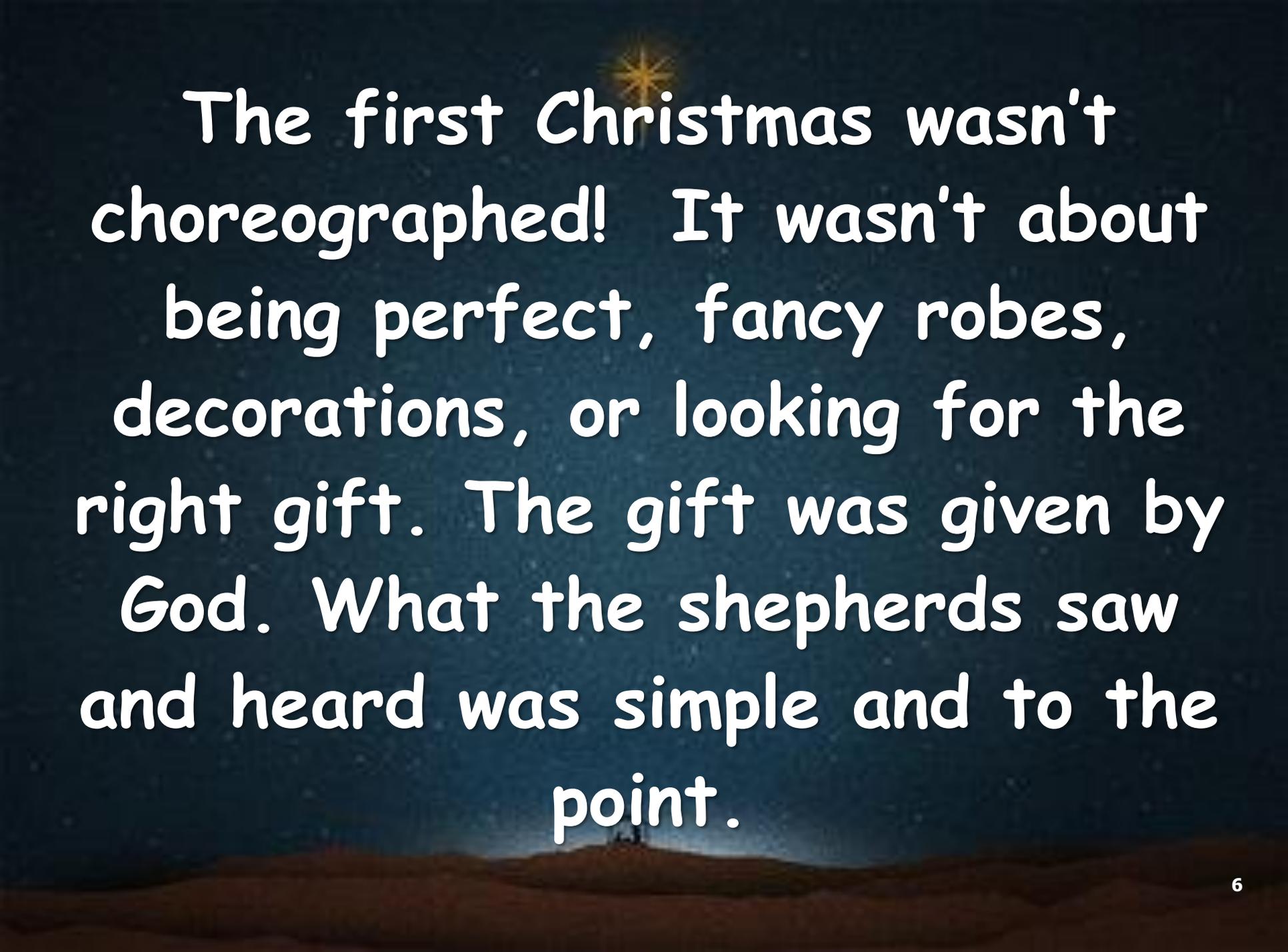
Skit Guys Nativity

<https://skitguys.com/videos/the-live-nativity>

A night sky with a star and a small structure on a hill in the foreground.

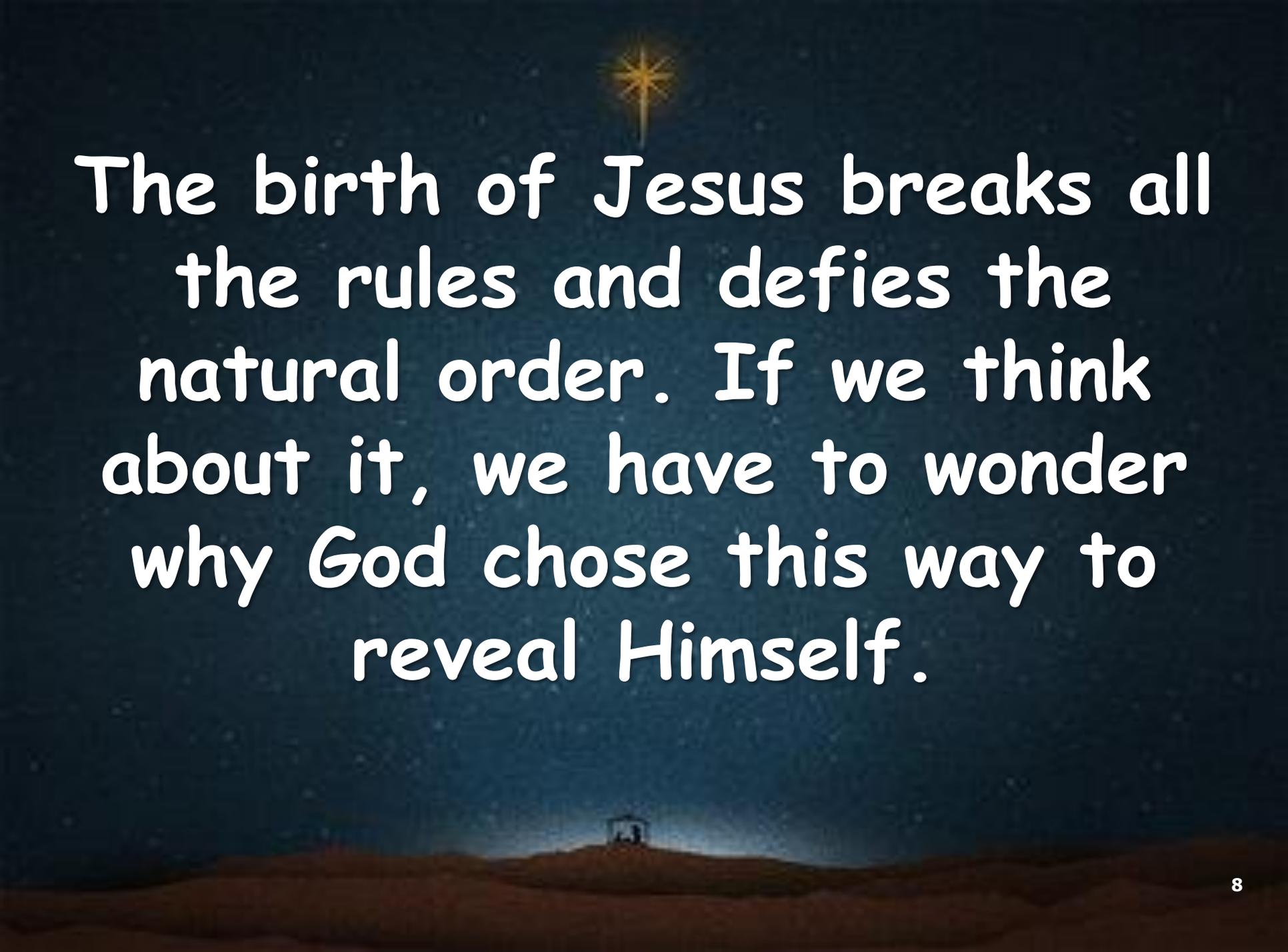
*God always makes do
with what He's got!*

Imperfect people!

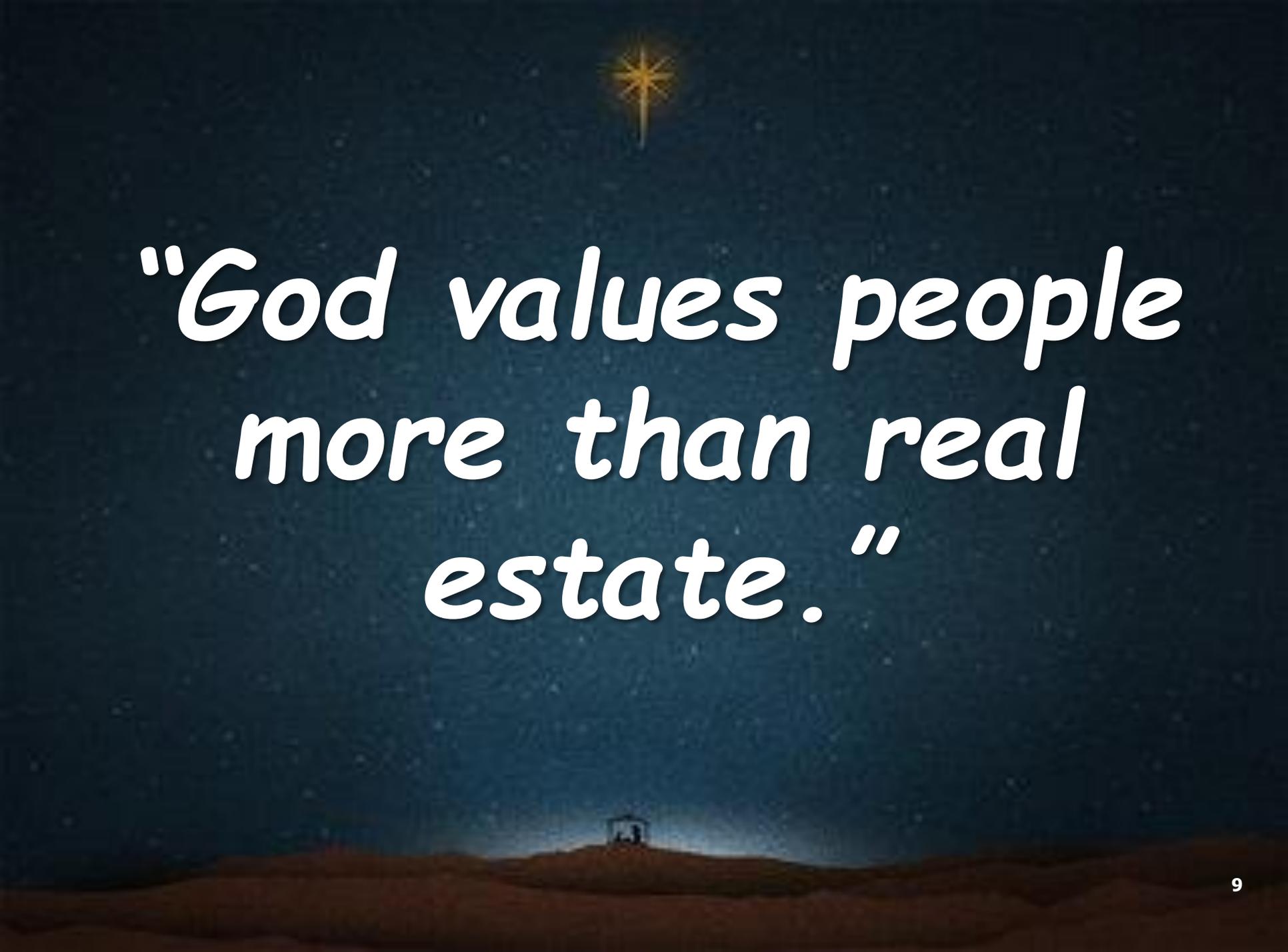
The background of the slide is a dark, starry night sky. A single, bright, multi-pointed star is positioned at the top center. Below the star, a dark silhouette of a person stands on a small hill or mound. The overall scene is dark and atmospheric, with the text overlaid in a bright, white, sans-serif font.

The first Christmas wasn't choreographed! It wasn't about being perfect, fancy robes, decorations, or looking for the right gift. The gift was given by God. What the shepherds saw and heard was simple and to the point.

JESUS - His
BIRTH
CHANGED EVERYTHING

A night sky with a bright, multi-pointed star at the top center. Below the star, a silhouette of a manger on a hill is visible against the dark sky. The foreground shows dark, rolling hills.

The birth of Jesus breaks all the rules and defies the natural order. If we think about it, we have to wonder why God chose this way to reveal Himself.

A night sky with a bright star and a small structure on a hill. The background is a dark blue night sky with a bright, multi-pointed star at the top center. Below the star, the sky transitions to a lighter blue. At the bottom of the image, there is a silhouette of a small structure on a hill, possibly a lighthouse or a small building, with a light emanating from it. The foreground is a dark, silhouetted landscape.

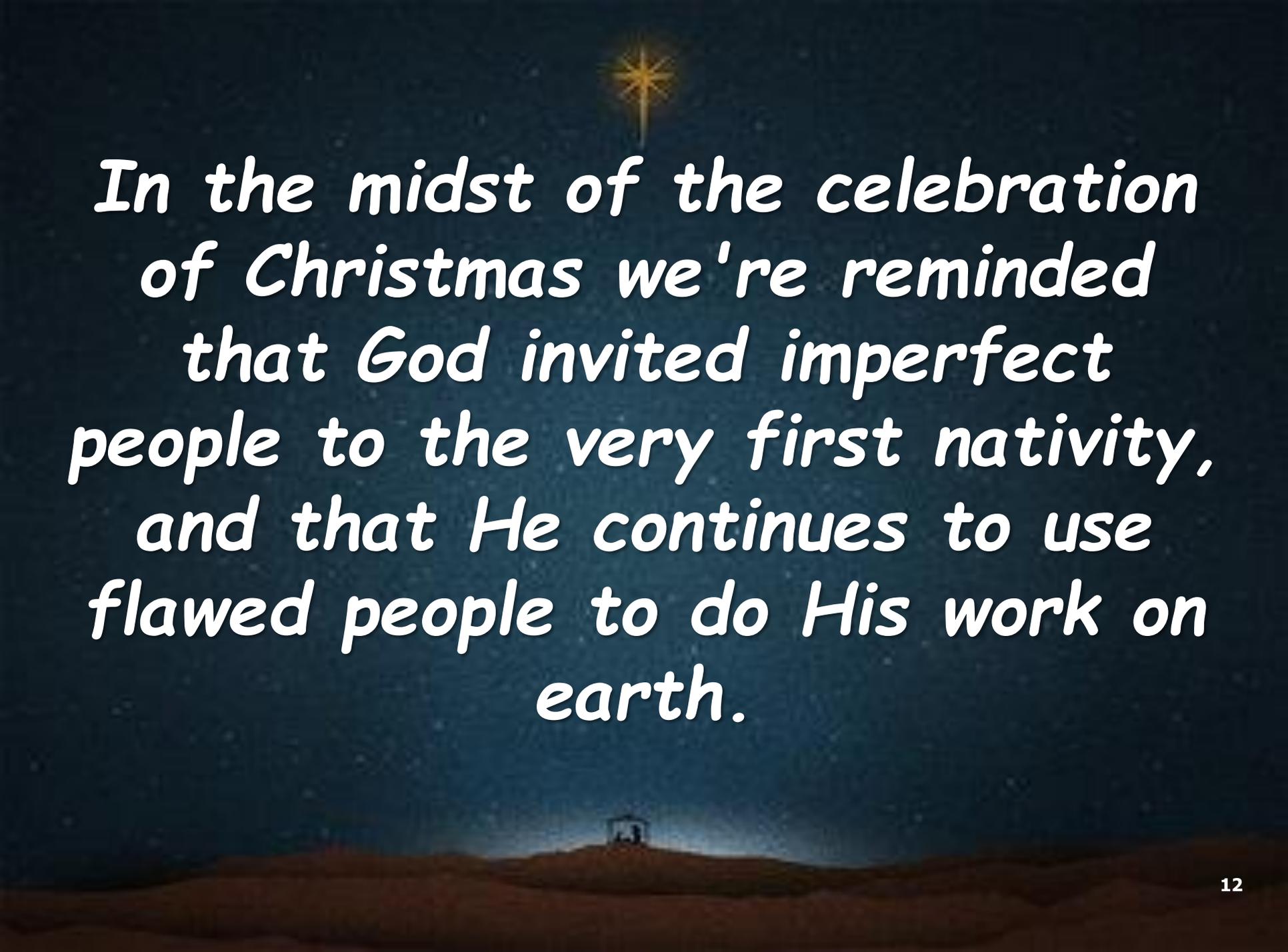
*"God values people
more than real
estate."*

**LOVE IS NOT "IF"
OR "BECAUSE".
LOVE IS "ANYWAY"
AND "EVEN
THOUGH" AND "IN
SPITE OF".**



Love works best when given away. It is the same with grace. We will have a more grace-filled society if we in the church who have been the recipients of God's marvelous grace in Christ Jesus will take it upon ourselves to begin giving it away.



A night sky with a bright, multi-pointed star at the top center. Below the star, the text is written in a white, cursive font. At the bottom of the image, a silhouette of a manger on a hill is visible against the dark sky.

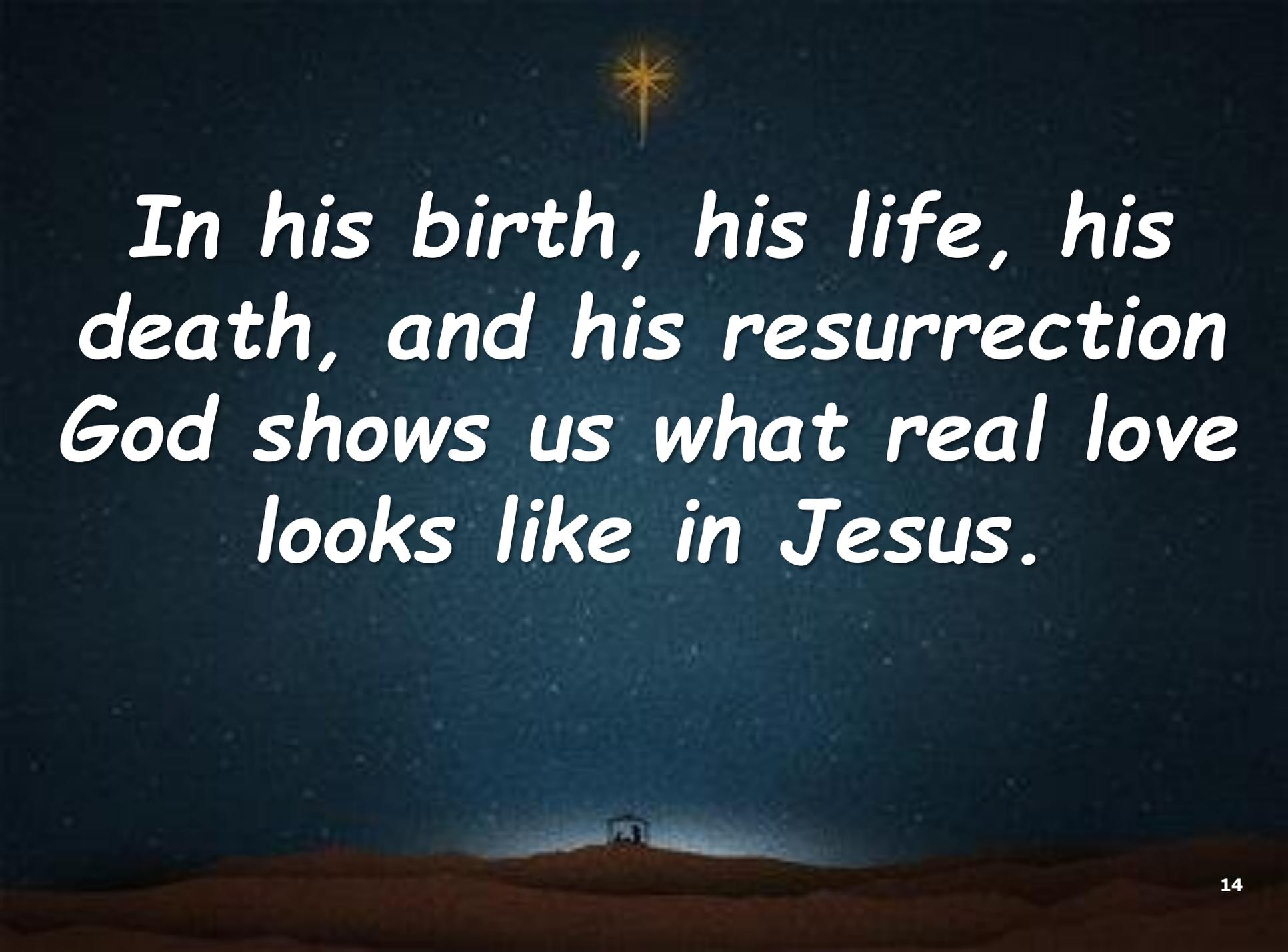
*In the midst of the celebration
of Christmas we're reminded
that God invited imperfect
people to the very first nativity,
and that He continues to use
flawed people to do His work on
earth.*



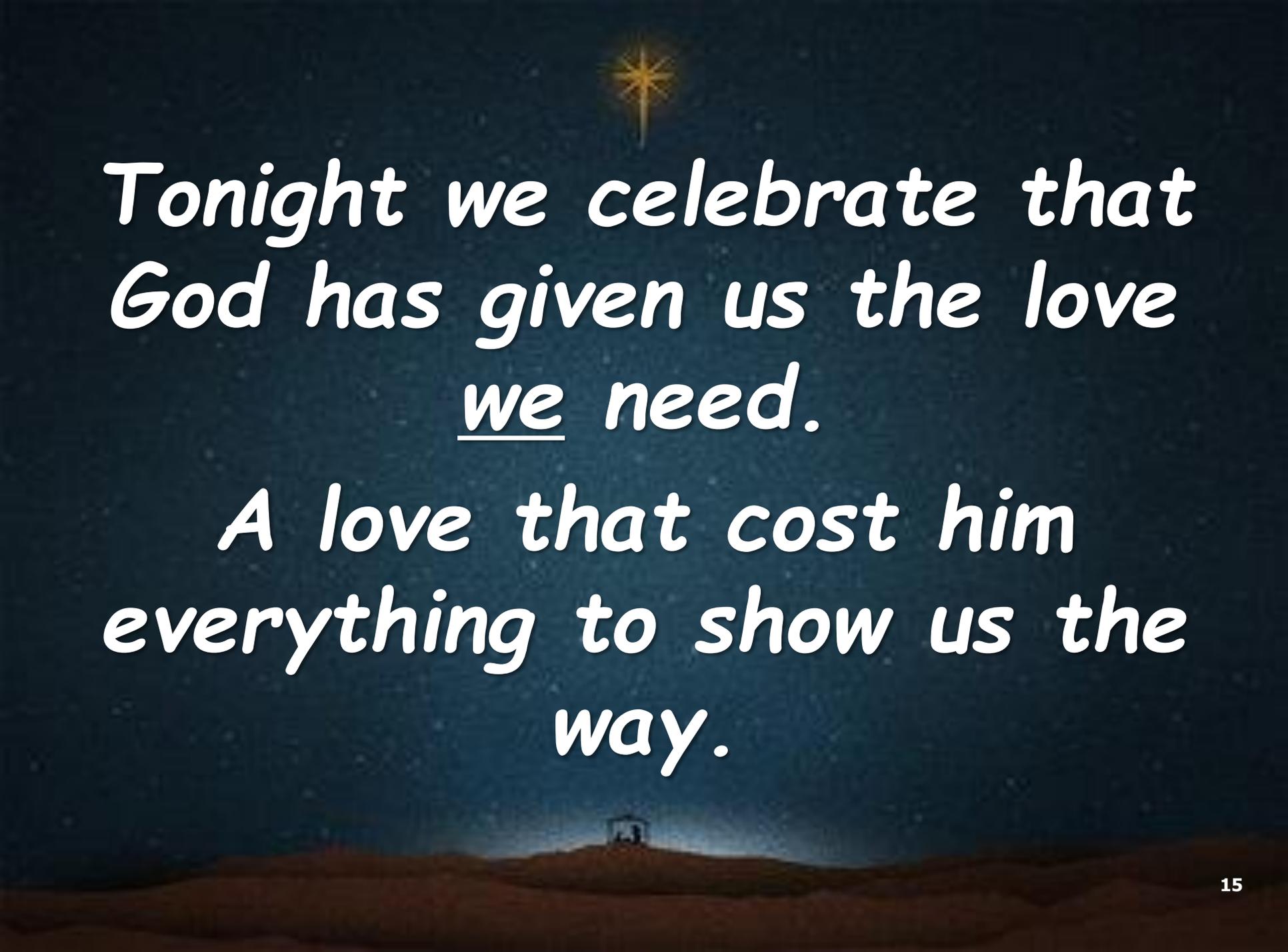
We heard the Prophet Isaiah tonight remind us, *"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined."*

It is time that we who have seen the light begin being the light! The hard part has already been done!



A night sky with a bright, multi-pointed star in the upper center. In the foreground, a small, dark structure sits atop a hill. The overall scene is dark and atmospheric.

In his birth, his life, his death, and his resurrection God shows us what real love looks like in Jesus.

A star in a dark sky above a desert landscape with a small building on a hill.

*Tonight we celebrate that
God has given us the love
we need.*

*A love that cost him
everything to show us the
way.*