

The Heart of Christmas

Discussion Guide

Week of December 10 - **"Pursuing"** - "Let's go and see this thing that has happened that the Lord has told us about."

Scripture verse: Luke 2:1-15

LOOKING BACK:

From our last session we talked about yielding to God's desire for your life (with money, marriage, children & future). What area did you work on? What changes or adjustments did you make by submitting to the Lord?

OPENING QUESTION: The anticipation of things you have waited for build up our expectation and excitement or sometimes trigger our anxiety. Whether its waiting for a financial raise at your job, a report card from your school, a test result from your doctor, or a gift from a loved one...all of these cause us to lean in and hope. What future thing has you waiting with anticipation? Why?

LOOKING UP:

1. With so many things keeping us pre-occupied with our time... (phones, social media, work projects, video games, athletics, hobbies, worry) how do you work at removing distractions and temptations in order to seek and listen to the Lord?
2. As a group, re-imagine what Christmas ought to be like. Like you will read in this passage identify what makes

Christmas meaningful and special. How can you prepare yourself in this season to seek the Savior and Messiah?

3. Now turn your attention to the passage of scripture below and then answer the 1st and 2nd questions.
4. After spending time answering questions 1 & 2 select a group member to re-read the passage using another Bible translation. Then answer the last 2 questions.

READ THE PASSAGE
Luke 2:1-15

Answer the first 2 questions after reading the passage

1. What stood out to you most?
2. What was challenging or hard to understand?
3. What does this teach us about God?
4. What does this teach us about people?

RE-READ THE PASSAGE

Read the passage again using another Bible translation... then answer the last 2 questions

LOOKING FORWARD:

1. Spend 1 minute silently praying. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal one way you can love the Lord by loving a neighbor.
2. Write a name down of someone you will serve and what way you will serve him/her/or a family this week.
3. Tell a group member whom you intend to serve and when so they can provide accountability for you to obey.
4. Plan to share your experience during your next gathering.