



WELCOME CHRISTMAS

Week Three

Opening Prayer

God, thank you for being a God who is with us. You are not in faraway spaces but you are with us today and always. Bless us as we share with each other today. Amen.

Talk It Over

December is filled with fun traditions, special treats, and festive decorations. It's a time where we gather and reflect on the gift of ultimate love we have been given. In this series, we are taking a look at the Christmas Story through unique lenses, each pointing to hope that applies to our lives today. This week we reflected on five important things to remember this Christmas. The first one being ***Christmas is different for everyone.*** We all celebrate, experience, and remember this holiday in different ways. Let's take a few minutes to explore those differences within our group.

- What is your favorite Christmas memory as a child?
- Do you have a story of loss during a past Christmas season? Either your own or one you witnessed. If you feel safe to share the story, do so with the group.

Read Isaiah 43:16-19 (NIV)

The second thing we need to remember this Christmas is that ***Jesus is the same for everyone.*** Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever! The work done through his birth and his death on the cross was for all of us — no matter how we celebrate the holiday of Christmas. He does not change.

- What does the truth of Jesus remaining the same mean to you?
- How does this truth impact your holiday Christmas (past, present, future)?

Read Isaiah 9:6 (NIV)

The third thing we need to remember this Christmas is ***who Jesus is.*** Jesus has so many names that give us insight into who he is and what his attributes mean to our everyday lives. We took the time to explore some of those this weekend.

A Wonderful Counselor – Filled with wonder the world has never seen, and yet understands all of us completely.

- How is he your Wonderful Counselor?

Mighty God – Powerful and mighty, with unparalleled strength.

- Do you feel the strength and power in who God is? Explain your answer.

Everlasting Father – All generations are cared for by him.

- Bring to mind your family; as well as imagine your future generations. What do you desire for them?

(Content continued on the next page.)

Prince of Peace – Opposite of the chaos of the world, He brings us peace, calm, and certainty that the world cannot provide; a peace assuring us that God is ultimately in control.

- Right now can you sense the peace of God? What is that like for you?

Read Luke 17:12-19 and Mark 5:19-20 (TPT)

The fourth thing we need to remember this Christmas is what ***Jesus has done***. Do you struggle with forgetting all the ways God has already moved in your life? In your mind, can you quickly recall a few ways you know he has done good things for you?

- What are you most grateful for?
- How does that gratitude impact what you know to be true regarding your future?

Read Luke 14:23 (Voice)

The fifth thing we need to remember this Christmas is what ***Jesus said...talk about it***. There are multiple places in scripture where people have encounters with Jesus and then go and talk about that encounter with others. We were meant to share the good news of Jesus with others.

- Who has God put on your heart to companion with in prayer and with encouragement?
- What can you do in the new year to foster or deepen relationships with those friends in your life that are far from God or struggling right now?

Closing Prayer

God, we thank you for the opportunity to reflect on the things we need to remember this Christmas. Continue to bring them to our minds as we enter the holidays and remind us who you are. Help us to fully experience you this week. Amen.

Group Logistics [A Reminder for New Groups]

As your group heads to a close for the holidays, be sure everyone is on the same page regarding expectations. Is this a break? Are you going to restart with the next group launch? Consider ending your season with some sort of fun celebration.

How To Use this Discussion Guide

The guide is meant to serve you and your group as you intentionally create space to grow in friendship and faith. Use the guide as a tool to help your unique group.

With that in mind, consider reviewing the guide before your group to see if some content or questions might resonate more or less with your group. Don't feel pressured to read all the content or to hit all the questions. The guide is not meant to be something you power through for the sake of completing. Pick the content from the guide you feel will help foster friendship and faith in your specific group.

In addition, spend some time praying for your group each week, preparing your heart, and asking God for wisdom and guidance as you lead.