



Discipleship Study Questions

For use from 12/4/22-12/25/22



Unto Us a Child is Born

In this series, we will dive into the birth of Jesus, why he came to earth, and what that means for those who believe.

Read the Scripture:

Individual: Read the passage from two or three different translations.

Group: Have two different group members read the passage using different Bible translations.

Speak the Scripture:

Individual: Recite the story aloud from memory (as best you can) or tell it to a friend or family member. The goal here is to get the essence of the passage in your heart.

Group: Have someone volunteer to recite the passage aloud in their own words, as best they can.

Understand the Scripture:

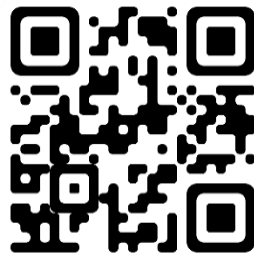
Individual or Group: Use the Discovery Questions to help ensure you understand the passage.

Dig Deeper into the Scripture:

Individual: Work through the Digging Deeper questions and pray about what God reveals to you through His word. Discuss with a Christian friend or family member if you choose.

Group: Work through the Digging Deeper questions as a group, celebrating the work God is already doing in each person's life, and encouraging each other to trust Him in the places that need growth.

If you are an individual who would like to join a Discipleship Group, please scan the QR code below or email Emma King at eking@christtherock.org.





Small Group Guidelines

This is a Safe Group

Confidentiality is key—what is said in the group stays in the group. Be aware how you are affecting the environment with your words, actions, and non-verbal communication. This needs to be a place where people feel comfortable opening up and sharing.

No Crosstalk

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations, phone time, texting etc.

Listen

Let's value one another by listening to what is being shared. Allow a pause after someone shares to allow them to finish and others to consider what was said. Eye contact and body posture play key roles in creating a positive or negative group environment.

No Rescuing or Fixing

We are not here to fix each other; Jesus does that part. Avoid the tendency to rescue when someone is struggling to get the words out or shares a struggle or conviction.

Use "I" Statements

It's easy to talk about the issues of others, or respond with "we," "us," or "the church," but for us to grow as disciples and build relationships, we want to use "I" statements.

Don't Over-Talk

We want to create time for all members of the group to participate in the discussion. Be careful not to always be the first responder or regularly give long responses.

Fight for Relationship

It's not *if* conflict or hurt feelings will happen, but *when*. We commit to fight for relationship with each other. Go to the person and share your struggle or seek wise advice if you are not sure how to handle the conflict.



Week 1: A Sign

Background: David's kingdom had split into two – Israel and Judah. In this story, the kings of Aram and Israel (also known as Ephraim) tried to overtake the city of Jerusalem which was in Judah. The prophet Isaiah was sent to tell Ahaz, the king of Judah, not to be afraid and to tell Ahaz what would eventually happen to the kingdoms that were attacking him. The Lord gave Ahaz a sign of what was to come, which is also a reminder to us during this season of Advent of things yet to come in our lives as well.

Read: Isaiah 7:1-14

Discovery Questions:

What do we learn about God in this passage?

What can we learn about trusting God from this passage?

What do you think God might be teaching you personally through this passage?

What action do you think the Holy Spirit may be leading you to take with what you've learned this week?

Digging Deeper:

Have you had a time when you felt like life was caving in and you weren't sure God was with you? What did you God do to remind you of His care for you?

Describe a time when you wished you would have followed the Lord's instructions to "Be careful, keep calm and don't be afraid?" If you had followed those instructions, would you have thought or acted differently? Explain.

Why do you think Ahaz refused to ask for a sign?

How could you respond to someone who doesn't believe in the virgin birth of Jesus?

Prayer: Lord, please help me to trust you even when things look like they are going the wrong way. Help me to remember that you see the end from the beginning and that your greater Plan is unfolding. Help me to cooperate with whatever you are asking me to do and help me to trust you have everything under control. For Jesus sake, Amen.



Week 2: A Child is Born

Background: In Isaiah 8, the prophet warned Judah about the coming invasion from Assyria and how hard it would be on the people of Zebulun and Naphtali. But those two regions around Galilee would one day become the first to see the light of the Messiah who would save them.

Read: *Isaiah 9*

Discovery Questions:

What do we learn about God in this passage?

What can we learn about trusting God from this passage?

What do you think God might be teaching you personally through this passage?

What action do you think the Holy Spirit may be leading you to take with what you've learned this week?

Digging Deeper:

Describe something that makes you feel gloomy or depressed. What truths from this passage can you use to challenge those thoughts and feelings next time?

How have you experienced Jesus at work in your life as:

- Wonderful Counselor –
- Mighty God –
- Everlasting Father –
- Prince of Peace –

Are there any areas you are telling God what you will do for Him, rather than obeying what He is telling you (see v. 9-10)?

What is one thing you could do this week to shine the light of Jesus to those walking in darkness in your neighborhood or workplace?

Prayer: Thank you for the gift of Jesus. Help me to remember he has overcome the world. Help me to be obedient to what he asks of me. Help me to be a light for him in my neighborhood and workplace. Help me to cling to the hope I have in him when I feel down. For his Kingdom and his glory. Amen.



Week 3: Why Jesus Came

Background: This prophecy was written to the Jews some 700 years before Christ. In this chapter, God introduces His Servant, and seeks to direct the attention of all men to Him. The prophecy begins and ends with a description of the exaltation and glory of the Righteous Servant, but in between the mountain tops of glory lies the deep valley of shame and suffering, which "for us men and our salvation" He had to pass. (Excerpt from <https://www.preceptaustin.org/isaiah-53-commentary>)

Read: Isaiah 53

Discovery Questions:

What do we learn about God in this passage?

What can we learn about trusting God from this passage?

What do you think God might be teaching you personally through this passage?

What action do you think the Holy Spirit may be leading you to take with what you've learned this week?

Digging Deeper:

What drew you to Jesus? What keeps you following Him?

Describe a time when you felt rejected by God. Where did you turn in your suffering? Is there anything you would do differently next time?

When is it hard for you to keep silent?

Can you identify any areas in your life where you don't feel forgiven? If so, what is preventing you from receiving forgiveness?

Prayer: Thank you for your Word, Lord, and for making a way for me to have a relationship with you through Jesus. Thank you that He paid the price for my sins so that I can be forgiven. Help me to forgive others the way you have so graciously forgiven me and help me embrace this free gift of forgiveness instead of trying to earn it. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Week 4: God with Us

Background: Matthew's gospel was written primarily to Jews to prove, by fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies, that Jesus was indeed the Messiah for whom they had been waiting. The gospel begins with Jesus' legal lineage to the throne of David through Joseph and reminds them that His virgin birth was foretold by the prophet Isaiah. Here is the story from God's Word...

Read: *Matthew 1, Isaiah 7:14*

Discovery Questions:

What do we learn about God in this passage?

What can we learn about trusting God from this passage?

What do you think God might be teaching you personally through this passage?

What action do you think the Holy Spirit may be leading you to take with what you've learned this week?

Digging Deeper:

How do you respond to stories that are hard to believe?

What would you tell a non-believer about the story of Jesus birth?

Describe a time when you sensed the Lord was asking you to do something. What was your response?

How do you know whether a prompting is from the Lord? What verses in Scripture support your view?

Prayer: Lord, I understand that your Word is filled with miracles and stories that can be hard to believe. But I trust that your word is truth. Please help me to grow in my ability, and willingness, to share my faith with those you have put in my sphere of influence. Help me to discern your voice and to be obedient to whatever you may ask of me. I pray that my faith, and my obedience, will bring you joy and glory. Amen.