



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.



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:

What causes nations to fight each other? What can you do about it?

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.