



Week 3  
Discipleship Study  
Questions



## A Weary World Rejoices

As we draw nearer to Christmas, we struggle to find peace and joy in what is meant to be the most wonderful time of the year. We are weary from feeling troubled, from busyness, from loneliness, and more. In this series, we will look at the hope found in the Christmas story for the weary soul looking for some rest.

### **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 3

**Background:** This week, we look at a passage that brings us to the day that Jesus is dedicated at the temple by Mary and Joseph. They are met by two people who help Mary and Joseph understand even more about this baby that the Father has called them to raise.

**Read:** *Luke 2:25-38*

**Discovery Questions:**

What do we learn about Jesus in this passage?

What do we learn about what it means to be a follower of Christ in this passage?

What do you think the Holy Spirit might be teaching you personally through this passage?

Is there anything God is leading you to do after reading this passage?

**Digging Deeper:**

Who do you identify with most in this story?

How can we learn from Anna's example of turning her loneliness into desire to be in God's presence?

What aspects of hope do you need to pray for God to rekindle in your own soul?

**End this time with a prayer.**

*If you aren't sure what to pray, try praying the Scriptures you studied today.*

**Optional Advent moment (this can be done alone, with your family, or with a discipleship group)**

*-Light the Angel's candle, and ask God to meet you where you are at. Just as the angels announced the coming of Christ, ask Christ to make you aware of His presence once again.*

*For Christmas, light the Christ candle, and allow it to remind you that when Christ was born, He brought His light into world, and the darkness will never overcome His eternal light.*

\*There will be no discipleship questions the week of December 24th, or the week of December 31st.

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

*If you'd like to learn more about how to handle troubling emotions like anxiety, depression, anger, fear, or more, here are a few resources to consider:*

### **Podcasts:**

- Fresh Hope for Mental Health
- The Allender Center Podcast
- The Wild at Heart Podcast

### **Blog:**

[www.emotionallyhealthy.org/blog](http://www.emotionallyhealthy.org/blog)

### **Books:**

- Resilient* by John Eldridge
- Redeeming Heartache* by Dan Allender
- Redefining Anxiety* by Dr. John Delony
- Emotionally Healthy Spirituality* by Pete Scazzero
- Bright Days; Dark Nights* by Elizabeth Ruth Skoglund with Charles Spurgeon

**Counseling Resources:** go to [www.christtherock.org/counseling](http://www.christtherock.org/counseling)