



GRACE GROUP LEADER'S MESSAGE GUIDE

Leader note: This Message Guide is intended to help you facilitate discussion with your Grace Group. You can use the guide exactly as it is, ignore some of it, or add to it. We hope you view this guide as a flexible teaching tool, and not a rigid teaching task.

WEEK OF DECEMBER 12th

Please review the Updates and Leader Information found at gracefellowship.cc/groupresources.

ICEBREAKER

What's the best Christmas movie in your opinion? The worst?

WATCH THE TEACHING VIDEO BY PASTOR JAKE MCCULLOUGH

CHRISTMAS - WEEK 2 (Scripture: Matthew 1:18-24, 2:1-12, 2:16)

1. Read the scriptures. How would you feel if you were Joseph and got the news that your fiancé was going to have a baby?
2. In vs. 21 Matthew gives the reason for Jesus' birth, that he would "save his people from their sins." What do you think Mary and Joseph thought that meant at that time?
3. What can we learn about our own faith from looking at both Mary and Joseph's responses to this situation?
4. What steps would you have to make to move toward a faith like Mary and Joseph's?
5. Why is it so hard for us to take steps in our faith journey?
6. Herod's control was challenged by this new "king." Describe Herod's actions at this point.
7. What do we know about the wise men?
8. How was Herod's plan thwarted?
9. As was stated last week as well as this weekend, God uses broken people to weave into a beautiful story. What is the beautiful story you are being weaved into?
10. What beautiful story would you like to be weaved into?
11. Who are you inviting to Christmas Eve services?

ACTION STEP

The action step out of the weekend message was to consider what part of this Christmas story do you need to give further thought to?

SHEPHERDING / CARE / PRAYER

How about some extended prayer time in your group meeting as the holidays can be a time of heightened stress? They can also be a time of heightened sensitivity to the needs of others. With the hustle and bustle of the season, it is a joy to meet with your small group to celebrate your relationships and what God is doing in your group.