



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 5th

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

ICEBREAKER

What have you been told about the events of your own birth?

WATCH THE TEACHING VIDEO BY PASTOR DAN CASE

CHRISTMAS - WEEK 1 (Scripture: Luke 1:26-38)

1. Read the scriptures. Why do you think Mary had found favor with God?
2. What do you think Mary's hardest thing to comprehend would be?
3. After the angel Gabriel told Mary what was to be, she answered, "I am the Lord's servant, may it be to me as you have said." How do you think you would have reacted in that moment?
4. Has Christmas become mundane to you and if so, in what way?
5. Isaiah prophesied many things about the coming of Jesus some 700 years prior to Jesus birth. When you think about how accurate those prophecies were, how does that impact your view of God?
6. The birth of Jesus is one example of many where God uses ordinary people to accomplish his mission. How does this give you hope that he has and will continue to use you?
7. Has God spoken to you about doing something for him that you've ignored or hesitated to act on? If so, please tell about it. *(leader note: if people share, this would be a great place to encourage them to take the step of obedience) (also check these out: 1 Samuel 15:22, Isaiah 1:19, Romans 6:16, James 4:7, 1 Peter 1:14)*
8. The birth of Jesus is one part of the Gospel message. What are the other main parts? *(leader note: God created everything and it was perfect, Adam sinned and therefore all humans are born sinners, our sin separates us from a Holy God, belief in Jesus brings us back into the right relationship with God, therefore eternity with God is our destination, John 3:16)*
9. When you think about the birth of Jesus, what are you amazed by most?
10. Name an experience you've had around Christmas that has stuck with you.
11. What is your least favorite thing about the Christmas season?
12. Special request for group members: read Luke chapters 1 and 2 each week of December and journal your thoughts.

ACTION STEP

The action step out of the weekend message was to be at worship during this series. It's important to hear all of the messages.

SHEPHERDING / CARE / PRAYER

Encouragement for the last group meeting of the season might involve giving each group member a piece of colored paper and a pen. Each group member writes his or her name at the top of the paper, and passes it to the right. Then each group member writes a note of appreciation or encouragement on the paper they have for the person whose name is at the top. Then members pass the papers to the right again. When you get your own paper back, the activity is finished, and group members can put away their papers to enjoy at home.

Most groups took last week off, but this was the encouragement to group leaders: Group leaders, how about praying for each person in your group by name each day we're not having group? (December 19th through January 19th) Pray through their needs, life situations, hurts, praises and blessings.