



Going Home for Christmas (Peace)

Luke 2:14; Isaiah 9:6; Proverbs 19:11; Ephesians 2:6; 4:1-3, 31-32

*These questions are provided to lead the group in **applying** the teaching from Sunday. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you in being a doer of God's Word. Challenge each other and be vulnerable as God works IN and THROUGH you together.*

1. Who has God placed on your heart to invite to The Table (1-Year Rally)? Have you had any table meetings yet (Church? Community? Cultures?)? If so, how's it going?
2. Do you ever totally offend people without knowing it? Stories, please.
3. Are you concerned about potential relational conflict this Christmas? Explain.
4. Read Hebrews 12:14-15. Discuss the danger of bitterness. What does it do? How can we prevent it from taking root in our lives? What do we do if it has already taken root? What is a bitter root you need to take care of before it grows and causes trouble?
5. On a scale of 1-10, how easily are you offended? What's something minor that offends you?
6. Read Proverbs 19:11. Why do you think many of us are so easily offended? How does this verse help us not be so easily offended?
7. Have you ever had to deal with a major offense? How did you get through it?
8. What do you think about the statement that we tend to judge others by their actions while judging ourselves by our intentions?
9. How can we overlook big offenses without denying or minimizing them? (Hint: The Hebrew word for "overlook" means "to pass over.") How is overlooking the key to overcoming an offense?
10. How does where we are positioned in Jesus Christ help us rise over even the biggest offenses? See Ephesians 2:6. What role does worship play in forgiveness?
11. Have you ever been the offender? What did unforgiveness or forgiveness feel like?
12. Read Ephesians 4:1-3, 31-32. Of the eight exhortations listed (humility, gentleness, patience, forbearance, love, kindness, compassion, forgiveness), which one do you need to "open" and offer as a "gift" to a family member or friend in your life? Which ones are the easiest for you? Which ones are more difficult to practice with others?
13. What offense do you need to release? What person do you need to forgive? How will you do it? What's your plan?
14. How can this group pray for you and our church this week? Pray for people to invite to your Church Table, Community Table, and Cultural Table.