

Christmas with 3Crosses

“The Spirit of Christmas”

PREPARATION

- Familiarize yourself with this Study Guide.
- If you missed it, watch the sermon online [HERE](#).
- Spend some time in prayer before your group gathers.
- As a leader you **always** have the option to use some or all the questions and/or prepare your own questions.

DISCUSSION

Opening Prayer: (1-5 minutes)

In light of what God is saying through this week’s message, here’s some suggestions of how your group can invite God into your time together.

Thank the Lord for sending His one and only Son to be born into this world to live the righteous life that we could never live. Thank Jesus for the gift of his sacrifice on the cross on behalf of us while we were still sinners so that we may be counted righteous in Jesus Christ. Finally pray that the Holy Spirit would open our eyes to God’s grace in our lives so that we can truly grasp the Christmas Spirit and give graciously just as God gave to us!

Discussion: (30 minutes)

What’s Going on This Week

This Sunday, Pastor Danny led us into the first week of our new Christmas series titled *Christmas with 3Crosses*. Pastor Danny focused our attention on the beginning of the gospel of Luke to discover Mary’s humility when she was chosen to be lavished with God’s grace. Pastor Danny walks through Mary’s speculation and humbly receptive attitude to remind the church that our giving spirit over Christmas ought to stem from a humble gratitude for the gracious gift that we have received in Jesus Christ.

**“We lose the spirit of Christmas when humble delight is replaced by selfish expectation.”–
Pastor Danny Strange**

Suggested Questions

Check-In: Review *Luke 2:1-20*: Verse 19, tells us that Mary treasured all of the events of Jesus' birth and pondered them in her heart. What are some of the Christmas moments that you have treasured the most? How is God challenging you to ponder the gift of Jesus Christ in your heart this season?

- Read *Luke 1:26-38; John 1:43-46; Matthew 1:18-25, 13:53-58*: Pastor Danny points out that even though Mary was a “nobody from nowhere”, God chooses to lavish His grace upon her! What are some of your personal observations of Mary's situation in the text (particularly Mary's response to Gabriel the angel) and what attributes of Mary do you wish to see in your own life this Christmas season?
- Read *Exodus 34:1-9; John 1:1-18; Ephesians 1:1-23; Titus 2:1-15*: Pastor Danny references God's grace as a crucial concept to grasp in order to recapture the spirit of Christmas. What stands out to you about the elements of God's grace in these passages? What are the ways that you have witnessed God's grace in your life and why do you believe it is so easy to forget God's grace in your own life?
- Read *Luke 1:46-55, 2:25-52; Mark 3:31-34; John 2:1-11, 19:25-27; Acts 1:12-14*: Pastor Danny challenges the church to **give, receive, live, and worship** with humility this Christmas season. How do you see these characteristics at work in Mary's life as she walks with Jesus? As you reflect on the events of Mary's humble walk with Jesus, how is the Lord challenging you to **give, receive, live, and worship** Him with humility?

Closing Prayer: (5-15 minutes)

In light of what God is saying through this week's message, here's some suggestions of what your group could talk about with God in prayer.

Thank our Heavenly Father for choosing to gracefully open our eyes and hearts to His truth! Pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to open our eyes to the significance of Jesus being born in this world and orchestrating this Christmas event through humble people. Pray that the graceful truth of the gospel message would spark in us a grace and compassion to give, receive, live, and worship humbly as we interact with the community around us!

THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

- Find out how to pray for two people in your group this week! Pray that they would continue to find new ways to experience God's grace as they remember that God has decided to move His will forward through their humility!

-Follow along with our Advent Devotional! Follow this link to find our [Christmas with 3Crosses Advent Devotional](#) or go and pick one up at the church!

-Explore New Ways to Give this Holiday Season! Visit our [Christmas with 3Crosses](#) website to find out more ways to partner with different ministries to share the grace that God has given us!

-Read Ephesians! The book of Ephesians reminds us of what God's grace means for our lives and offers us examples of how we should act in light of this grace!

- Sign-Ups for the New Community Group Season begin January 26th, 2019! If you have any questions, feel free to email AJ at avanegas@3crosses.org