



DISCIPLE GROUP CURRICULUM GUIDE

Unwrapping Christmas

Week 1: Christmas from Eternity

November 30 – December 3, 2023

LEADER NOTES: **Fall trimester:** August 28 – December 10; **New Leader Trainings:** December 10 in-person and December 18 on Zoom.

Coach and Leader Gathering at San Pablo, Saturday, January 20, 8am-12pm: Join your discipleship ministers, fellow coaches and leaders to celebrate what God has done, and what He is going to do to us and through us this year. We will have a continental breakfast, worship, pray, be equipped during breakout sessions and fellowship together. (Childcare provided.) [Click here to register.](#)

Coach and Leader Celebration at The Retreat Center, Wednesday, January 24, 1-8pm: Come join us for fellowship with all your discipleship ministers, coaches and leaders from every campus. **Activities include** enjoying the grounds, golfing, dock fishing, pickleball, tennis, cornhole, basketball and billiards/darts in the tavern. [Click here for details and to register.](#)

Leader Podcast - *Leading Well in 7 Minutes or Less*: You can listen to every episode on [Spotify](#) or [Apple](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Christmas Toy Drive, November 26 – December 15: Hope's Closet, Eleven22 Kids and Family Support Services of NE Florida are hosting a Christmas Toy Drive to benefit children in foster care and beyond. Get involved by bringing NEW toys to the marked collection bins in the Eleven22 Kids lobbies at all campuses or either of the Hope's Closet locations. For more information and a list of toys needed, visit coe22.com/localmission.

THIS WEEK'S READING PLAN: coe22.com/readingplan

Share Wins, Praises and Prayers: Where did you see God move this week?

The Point: The Son of God became a man that men and women could become sons and daughters of the one true God.

SERMON TEXT: *John 1:1-18; 29; Philippians 2:1-11; Revelation 3:20*

Discussion Questions

LEADERS: There is no pressure to get through all the questions; we suggest prayerfully planning your choices for your group. Your leadership of sharing and questioning will determine how deep your group goes with each question.

- **What stood out to you in the sermon this week?**
- **Read *John 1:1-18* and *Philippians 2:1-11*. What did God reveal to you in the Scriptures this week, maybe for the first time?**
- **What part of the Christmas story amazes you the most and why?** *(Are you able to comprehend the bigness of God? Can you wrap your brain around His omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence, immutability, immensity, love, grace, mercy, justice, holiness and perfection? Are you able to believe the sovereign creator of the universe made himself so small as to take on human flesh and walk among us - all to have a relationship with you, redeem you and ransom himself for you? Praise God that He did!)*
- **Discover:** Read *John 1:1-5*. What is it that we often miss about Christmas because we tend to begin with baby Jesus in a manger? *(The Christmas story doesn't begin with a baby in a manger. It begins in the mind of the eternal God before the foundation of the world. Jesus was there from "the beginning." God the father looked at God the Son and said, "It's time." The second person of the trinity stood up from his throne, took off his crown, laid down his diadem, took off his royal robe and the Word became flesh.)*
Deepen: List the terms used to describe Jesus in *John 1:1-5*. How do these reveal some of the character and nature of the one true God?
- **Discover:** Read *John 1:12-18*. How is Jesus better than Santa? *(Santa is about "works based righteousness." He keeps a naughty and nice list. If you're "good," you get presents. If you're "bad," you get coal. We can have fun with Santa, but the world has twisted the real St. Nick and the Christmas story. Jesus loves us even though he knows we're sinners. He invites us into a relationship with Him and promises to change us from the inside out. Jesus gives us Grace based adoption into His family that we could never earn on our own!)*
Deepen: Read *John 1:12* again. How do you receive the gift of Jesus? What makes it difficult for some people to receive His gift? *(If you believe IN Him and put your trust in Him, you receive Him – like a gift. Jesus becomes your savior, and he gives you the right to become a child of God. Think about why it's difficult for some to accept Jesus. It may make it easier for you to share your faith with them.)*
- **Discover:** Read *Revelation 3:20*. What does it mean to you that Jesus says if you open the door, He will come in and eat with you?
Deepen: Jesus shared a meal around a table with his disciples before he went to the cross. What special moments have you shared around a table with friends and family? What is it about sharing a meal around a table that makes it so intimate?
- **The earthly birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus has happened. What is Jesus doing right now? Share how it encourages you.** *(According to the Bible: 1. Jesus is waiting. When he returns every knee will bow. 2. He's interceding for YOU with the Father. 3. He's warning you to not be conformed to this world. He's encouraging you to persevere, suffer well, and wake up! 4. Jesus is knocking on the door, seeking a relationship with you.)*

ACTION STEP

A Disciple...Loves All People, Discovers Identity in Jesus, Deepens Relationship with Jesus

After reviewing the sermon and the scriptures this week, plan out how you can share with someone this Christmas season:

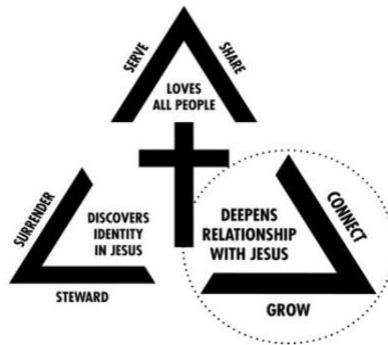
1. How the Christmas story doesn't begin with a baby in the manger.
2. What Jesus has done for us and what He is doing for us right now.

Pray for a chance to share this with someone and report back to your group what happens.

- **RightNow Media:** Find *an unending supply of resources* by signing up for a FREE RightNow Media account. Go to coe22.com/rightnowmedia or text "RightNow" to 441122.

(Note: You'll need to login or create an account to view RightNow Media content.)

- Details on the 10:10 Life are available at coe22.com/1010life.



Go to coe22.com/resources/discipleship-journey/ and click "Download Tool" to download or print a discipleship journey tool with questions for you to ask yourself and others. Please share the link and directions with others in your group.