



# DISCIPLE GROUP CURRICULUM GUIDE

Unwrapping Christmas

Week 2: Christmas from the Heavens

December 7 & 10, 2023

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**LEADER NOTES:** **Fall trimester:** August 28 – December 10; **New Leader Trainings:** December 10 in-person and December 18 on Zoom; **Disciple Groups Signup Weekends:** January 11- 28; **Spring trimester:** January 22 – May 6.

**Save the Date!** Pastor Joby is one of the preachers for the No Regrets Men's Ministry conference on February 3 from 8am-1pm. Your group can attend live online for free or watch the recorded sessions later. [Click here for more information](#). If your group would like to attend, email [gregory.knapp@coe22.com](mailto:gregory.knapp@coe22.com) and he will get you the login code. You can also [click here](#) for the No Regrets Men's Ministry podcast with Pastor Joby.

**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](#).

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## 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](http://coe22.com/localmission).

THIS WEEK'S READING PLAN: [coe22.com/readingplan](http://coe22.com/readingplan)

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

**The Point:** This is not a silent night: this is war! And the victory belongs to the incarnate Christ. The things we do here on earth have an eternal impact.

**SERMON TEXT:** *Matthew 2:7-23; Ephesians 6:10-17; Revelation 12:1-17*

## Discussion Questions

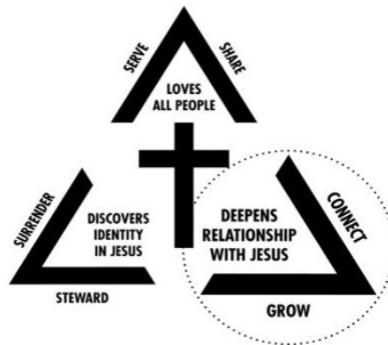
**LEADERS:** There is no pressure to get through all the questions; we suggest prayerfully planning your choices for your group. Your leadership of sharing and questioning will determine how deep your group goes with each question.

- **What stood out to you in the sermon this week?**
- **Read *Revelation 12:1-17*. What did God reveal to you in the Scriptures this week, maybe for the first time?**
- **Read *Matthew 2:7-23*. What are some of the ways the prophecies of the Messiah were fulfilled by the birth and early life of Jesus?** (*Scripture prophesied the Messiah would be from three places – Bethlehem, Egypt, and Nazareth. How? A census led Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem. Herod's tyranny led Jesus to Egypt. Herod's son was also a tyrant, so Jesus was raised in Nazareth. God wasn't surprised by any of this.*)
- **Joseph's simple steps of obedience had eternal impact. What next step is God calling you to take and what eternal impact could your obedience have?** (*The first four years of Joseph & Mary's marriage and beginning of their family went very differently than they had planned or dreamed, but they obeyed God and He protected them. Consider your life's unexpected or even unwelcomed changes and how God made those changes "work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28. What may be unplanned by you is never unplanned by our sovereign and good God. If you want to do what God tells you to do, then do what the Bible tells you to do.*)
- **Read *Revelation 12:1-17*. What are some of the similarities between the Christmas story we know so well and this scripture?**
- **Think about the evil that is outlined in the Bible and the evil that we witness in our world. Pastor Joby said we see the same demons now, just with new names. What are some of the schemes of the enemy from scripture that you see in the world today?** (*Some people believe a demon is behind every corner and some don't believe in them at all. Both extremes can be dangerous. Read Ephesians 6:10-18 for some of the ways the Bible tells us to fight spiritual warfare.*)
- **How is the red dragon, Satan, making war on you this Christmas? Which of his schemes are the hardest for you to resist?** (*Remember: He tries to deceive you with the things of this world, he accuses you of being unfit for use and he tries to make you live in fear.*)
- **In addition to the instructions in *Ephesians 6:10-18*, How do we fight back against the schemes of the enemy?** (*Here are some options. Use the sword of the Spirit – the word of God – as your foundation and your weapon. Worship regularly with other believers. Rest in the knowledge that you are who Jesus says you are. Recognize that you are at war, but thanks to Jesus, you battle from a position of victory. Declare your identity in Jesus Christ, not in your past sins or labels. Meditate on the fact that Jesus loves you perfectly and perfect love drives out fear.*)

## ACTION STEP

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

1. Find and memorize scriptures you can call on when you feel tempted by the schemes of the enemy. (You can do an Internet search for, "Bible verses about \_\_\_\_\_.")
  2. Many Christmas hymns have great doctrine in them. Look at the lyrics of some of your favorites and discuss the parts that come straight out of the Bible. When you hear these songs from now on, think about the word of God and his plan for Christmas.
- **RightNow Media:** Find *an unending supply of resources* by signing up for a FREE RightNow Media account. Go to [coe22.com/rightnowmedia](http://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](http://coe22.com/1010life).



*Go to [coe22.com/resources/discipleship-journey/](http://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.*