



DISCIPLE GROUP CURRICULUM GUIDE

Unwrapping Christmas

Week 3: Christmas from the East

December 14 & 17, 2023

LEADER NOTES: New Leader Trainings: May 19 in-person and May 20 on Zoom; **Disciple Groups Signup Weekends:** January 11- 28; **Spring trimester:** January 22 – May 6.

Save the Date! No Regrets Men's Ministry Conference (Pastor Joby preaches a session) Saturday, February 3 from 9am-2pm ET (8am-1pm CT). Watch online for free. [More information](#). Email gregory.knapp@coe22.com for everything you need so your group can login and watch.

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:

Curriculum Break: During the next two weeks of our Christmas break there will be no curriculum posted. We will resume posting curriculum on January 5, 2024. If your group chooses to meet, we recommend focusing on fellowship, serving together and/or praying for each other.

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

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

The Point: From the cradle, Jesus was being prepared for the cross. "She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." - Matthew 1:21

SERMON TEXT: *Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2; Matthew 1:18-2:25; John 1:1; 8:58; 10:31; Romans 10:9; Ephesians 2:4; Colossians 1:17; 1 Timothy 1:15*

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 *Matthew 1:18-2:12*. What did God reveal to you in the Scriptures this week, maybe for the first time?**
- **What is it about Jesus that caused all the miraculous actions in heaven and on earth during the time of His birth? What does *Matthew 1:21-23* tell us about the character and attributes of Jesus?** (*Jesus the King, God, LORD, Savior was stepping off his throne and becoming a shepherd among us and for us. Jesus is not just God, but God with us. Jesus has always, is now, and will forever be fully God. Jesus was born to die, born to be resurrected and born to save us from our sin - past, present and future! He is saving still and will keep saving! All God's plans & promises since the foundation of the world are fulfilled & coming true in Jesus. Therefore, you can trust that he's keeping all his promises to you now! God is still working his unstoppable plot, and he will not relent or rest until all that the prophets predicted is fully realized in the lives of every one of his children. Jesus is unique among religious figures. Through Him every miracle and resurrection is possible.*)
- ***Discover:* Jesus is God, and he came to be with us in the middle of the mess of the first Christmas. What does that mean for you and your salvation?** (*God wasn't waiting on humanity to clean up its act then, and He isn't waiting for you to clean up your act now. He still loves you and comes to you in the middle of the mess. Go to Him and let him change you from the inside out.*)
***Deepen:* Before Pastor Adam's message, we unwrapped Christmas with our ministry partners in Costa Rica and prayed for our newest long-term missionaries to Africa. What might be the messy place God is asking *you* to go – in your neighborhood, workplace, city, or beyond - to play the role he has for you in The Great Commission? Share with your group what you think God is calling you to do?**
- ***Discover:* Pastor Adam showed there was one response (worship) in three forms to Jesus's birth. The chief priests & scribes in *Matthew 2:3-6* responded with *religious* worship – indifference. Herod, in *Matthew 2:7-8*, responded with self-worship. The wisemen, in *Matthew 2:9-12*, responded with rejoicing, bowing down and true worship. Share a time when you've responded in each of these ways. How did the different responses impact your relationship with Jesus, others and your life?**
***Deepen:* In what ways do the wisemen's actions demonstrate true worship?**

ACTION STEP

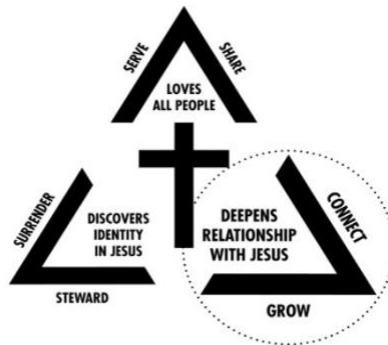
A Disciple...Loves All People, Discovers Identity in Jesus, Deepens Relationship with Jesus

In response to Christmas, every day this week demonstrate true worship of Jesus. *(Some examples of worship include reading and studying the bible, praying, praising Him through song and word, expressing gratitude, doing everything you do to His Glory, and using your time, talents and treasure to show love to him and to others.)*

- **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.