

## **“Getting Ready for Christmas”**

### **Keeping the Main thing, the Main Thing**

### **INTRODUCTION**

We may intend to keep Christ in Christmas, but the challenge is sometimes overwhelming. During this season of the year we can find ourselves swept up in the hectic pace and unrealistic expectations that are part of the culture of Christmas that surrounds us. In this study we will be reminded that God had one very special reason for sending His son to be born into the world. Use this study to prepare your heart for the good news of Christmas.

#### ***Ice Breaker (Optional):***

What have you done to prepare for Christmas this year?

### **STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)**

#### **Jesus, Emmanuel**

##### **Q1. Read Matthew 1:20-23, John 1:29, 1 Timothy 1:15**

In Matthew 1:20-23, we find the Angel of the Lord instructing Joseph. Why were he and Mary to call the child Jesus (Matthew 1:21)? By what other name did Matthew identify Him in Matthew 1:23? (Do you know what each means?) How do these two titles, or names, come together in John 1:29 and 1 Timothy 1:15 to explain God’s purpose in sending His son that first Christmas?

#### **Victory**

##### **Q2. Read Hebrews 2:14-15; 1 John 3:8; John 12:31-33**

The book of Hebrews tells us some of the requirements in order for Satan’s power to be broken. Why does it tell us it was important for Jesus to be born as a human? How does 1 John 3:8 describe the purpose for His coming? At what point did He accomplish that purpose (John 12:31-33?)

#### **Worth Celebrating**

##### **Q3. Read 1 John 5:4-5; 1 John 2:16; 1 Corinthians 15:57**

If Jesus had not been born we would still be lost in our sins. How does 1 John 5:4-5 describe what we gain through our faith in Jesus? Three categories are described in 1 John 5:4-5 as a “all that is in the world.” What are some of the specific things in those categories that

you have gained victory over through faith in Jesus? Are there areas you would like prayer from your group?

#### **Sharing the Gift**

##### **Q4. Read Romans 5:17, 6:23, 10:14; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15**

In light of the incredible gift we have been given (Romans 5:17, 6:23) we must ask ourselves how we can share this with others. How would you answer the questions posed in Romans 10:14? If you are reluctant to share the gospel with others, consider what 2 Corinthians 5:15 says about your life’s purpose. What better gift can you offer this Christmas, than your life to God’s purposes? As a group, take time to pray prayers of thanks and dedication to God. Make it your gift to Jesus.

### **WRAP-UP**

The greatest gift ever given was Jesus. He came to earth with a purpose – to defeat Satan and save sinners. The purpose that began in the Bethlehem manger was fulfilled at the cross. When Jesus defeated Satan we were set free from sin and offered eternal life. As members of the church, the ones saved by faith in Christ, our lives should be lived for God, and as such we have the honor and the responsibility to spread the good news to the lost.

#### ***Memory Verse***

*The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.*  
*1 Timothy 1:15 ESV*

### **PRAYER (20 MIN)**

*Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Pray for your group members’ needs: \_\_\_\_\_*

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*Challenge: Look for an opportunity to include a reference to Jesus in each card or gift you give this year. Pray for the opportunity to bring someone to church this Christmas season.*

Read Matthew 1:20-23 in your Bible

John 1:29 ESV - 29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

1 Timothy 1:15 ESV - 15 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

## Q2

Hebrews 2:14-15 NLT - 14 Because God's children are human beings--made of flesh and blood--the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. 15 Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying.

1 John 3:8 ESV - 8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

John 12:31-33 ESV - 31 Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. 32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." 33 He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

### Q3

1 Corinthians 15:57 ESV - 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 John 5:4-5 ESV 4 For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith. 5 Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

1 John 2:16 ESV - 16 For all that is in the world--the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life--is not from the Father but is from the world.

## Q4

Romans 5:17 ESV - 17 For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

Romans 6:23 ESV - 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 10:14 ESV - 14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 ESV - 14 For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; 15 and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

\*Jesus is Greek for Joshua which means “the Lord Saves”

**Prayers Con't:**