

12.23.18 - Advent - Christian

For Advent:

If you're not in a small group, or if your group is taking a break this month, feel free to use these as personal devotional questions, or with your family or housemates.

Leader Prep Section

- Prepare by reading through the questions and scripture passage so that you can select a few questions that are best suited to your group. No need to do all the questions if you don't have time!
- Try to work through at least one question from each of the sections - Hook, Book, Look, Took in order to move from observation to application.
- When possible spend time in prayer for each member of your group.

Goal / Focus: Joy

Hook - Ice breaker type questions to help make the transition into the study time.

- What are some things that stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?
- If you had really great news, who would you tell it to first?.

Background / Reading

Read: Luke 2:8-14

- Does anyone have any questions about this passage? Or observations that stand out to you immediately? (Remind those who share that we'll likely return to their ideas in our discussion!)

Book - These questions are designed to get you into the text itself.

- What is the good news that the angel announced?
- Who is this good news for?
- Put yourself in the shepherds' shoes. What might they have experienced with their senses at the angel's coming? (darkness and light, silence and praise, etc.)

Look - These questions will take you on a deeper look at what the passage means for us today.

- Notice how both heaven and earth benefit from Jesus' birth in the angel's song. How does Jesus accomplish both glory for God and peace for people?
- Do you think it is strange that such epically important news would be announced to such an obscure group of people? Why do you think God chose to announce the coming of Joy on earth to shepherds?

Took - These questions are focused on applying the big idea from the text to our lives.

- The good news of the Messiah is a message of joy for everyone. Why does Jesus' birth as the Messiah bring you joy? How often do you celebrate this truth?
- Is there anything that competes with joy in your life? (Ex: cynicism, sadness, apathy, etc.)