

Small Group Discussion Guide

For the week of December 22 - 28, 2019

Main Thought and Scripture:

The first Christmas happened during a very chaotic time. The Jews had been oppressed by the Romans for generations. Mary, a virgin, found out that she was pregnant by the Holy Spirit. No one believed her including her fiancé Joseph, who planned to call off the engagement until he was visited by an angel in a dream. Then, Mary and Joseph couldn't find a place for her to give birth and had to deliver their baby in a barn. The first Christmas shows us that God is near and wants to reveal Himself to us in a deeper way in the midst of chaos.

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. The righteous person may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all..." (Psalm 34:18-19 NIV)

In the midst of chaos, we can discover the Lord and His purpose for us as we:

1) Listen for His leading.

God is always speaking to us. We can discern His voice as we take the time to truly listen.

2) Respond with faith and obedience.

There are always steps of faith and obedience that must be taken if we are to experience God's plan for our lives.

"The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth." (Psalm 145:18 NIV)

"Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God." (John 1:12-13 NIV)

Reflection:

- What stands out to you from the main thought and scriptures above and why?
- When have you experienced God in the midst of chaos in your life? What happened and what did you learn?

Application:

- What kind of chaos (big or small) are you experiencing right now? How do you think you can respond to God in order to experience Him in a deeper way?

Prayer:

- Pray for one another that we would respond to God with faith and obedience in the midst of the chaos of life.
- Pray for one friend or family member who is experiencing chaos right now that they would experience God's love in the midst of the chaos.