

# Small Group Discussion Guide

For the week of December 4 - 10, 2022

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## Main Thought and Scriptures:

We celebrate Christmas because we celebrate Jesus' birth. God born in human flesh in Jesus has great significance and meaning to our everyday lives. It reveals God's great love for us and demonstrates that God is near and that He cares for us. Jesus' life and the truth of Scripture show that God understands what we go through and cares deeply about our struggles. Our response should be to draw near to God by placing our faith in Him, which brings salvation, transformation, and help in our time of need.

*“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup>An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.’ <sup>13</sup>Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.’” (Luke 2:8-14 NIV)*

*“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. <sup>15</sup>For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. <sup>16</sup>Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” (Hebrews 4:14-16 NIV)*

*“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are... <sup>2</sup>Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup>All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.”*  
*(1 John 3:1-3 NIV)*

### **Discussion Questions:**

*(Break into groups of 3-4 to discuss)*

- What stands out to you from the main thought and scriptures above and why? What do you think God is trying to say to you?
- Do you believe that God is near you and that God sees you? Describe a specific situation where He has either felt near or far.
- Have you experienced either salvation and/or transformation in your life? Describe one specific area in your life if so.

### **Prayer:**

- Pray for one another to experience more of God’s presence in our everyday lives.
- Pray for someone you know who has not yet received Jesus’ love. Pray that they will be open to Him this Christmas season.