**Life Group Study Guide: Loved what you heard on Sunday? Want to go deeper? The life group study guide will help you unpack what you heard on Sunday, while diving deeper into God's word.**

**CONNECT:**

* What is your favorite Christmas gift ever? Why?
* Talk about a time you had trouble convincing someone of something you knew to be true. What did you say?

**Digging Deeper:**

*The Christmas story began in Genesis with God’s promise that through one man the entire world would be blessed. Apparently, the world needed blessing, but it wasn’t only the world that needed Christmas. God needed it, too.*

Read Galatians 4:4-7

* In what ways does our culture tempt us to behave like slaves even though we’re God’s children?
* During the message, Pastor Jason said, “*The events of Christmas would be unbelievable if the story wasn’t so remarkable*.” Do you find the Christmas story unbelievable or remarkable? What are some of the things that have shaped your view of Christmas?

Read Romans 5:6-8

* What are some truths about God that you wouldn’t know if Jesus hadn’t demonstrated them?
* During the message, Pastor Jason said, “*Jesus’ death demonstrated the magnitude of our ingratitude and the magnitude of his love for us*.” Is it difficult for you to believe God loves you that much? Why or why not?

**MAKING IT PERSONAL:**

*Christmas is a time we celebrate the birth of Jesus, but before his birth was that of John the Baptist’s. Luke 1:16-17 tells us* ***“And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, 17and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”*** *John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus’ ministry. As we look expectantly toward Christmas, are you spiritually prepared for the significance of what Christmas means? Christmas is a reminder of the fact that we are in need of a Savior. Christmas is an indictment before it becomes a delight.*

* How do you find yourself personally relating to the passages you read in this study?
* What is one take away, insight, or action step that you will take as a result of this study?
* Is Jesus preparing you for something this Christmas? How might the Christmas story give you encouragement?

180-Day Guided Tour of the Bible

**Reading Plan for Week of December 10th**

1. Psalm 51: True Confession
2. Psalm 139: David’s Spiritual Secret
3. 1 Kings 3: Raw Talent
4. 1 Kings 8: High Water Mark
5. Psalm 84: Home Sweet Home

WHO NEEDS CHRISTMAS?

“GOD DOES”

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**THE EVENTS OF CHRISTMAS WOULD BE UNBLIEVABLE IF THE STORY WASN’T SO REMARKABLE.**

**Genesis 12:1-3 (NIV)**

*1The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. 2“I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”*

**WHY DID GOD NEED CHRISTMAS?**

**Galatians 4:4-5 (ESV)**

*4But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.*

* **GOD CAME TO DO SOMETHING PERSONAL, SO HE HAD TO DO SOMETHING RELATIONAL.**
* **CHRISTMAS IS A DOCUMENTED DEMONSTRATION OF GOD’S LOVE FOR US.**

**Romans 5:8 (NIV)**

*8But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

**Acts 3:13-15 (NIV)**

*13The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. 14You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. 15You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.*

* **JESUS’ DEATH DEMONSTRATED THE MAGNITUDE OF OUR INGRATITUDE, AND THE MAGNITUDE OF HIS LOVE FOR US.**

**Romans 5:6-8 (NIV)**

*6You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

**Matthew 1:20-23 (NIV)**

*20But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” 22All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).*

**John 3:16 (NIV)**

*16For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*