**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 song? Why?

**Digging Deeper:**

*We reduce Christmas to forgiveness. We can’t live up to God’s standards, so he sent Jesus to make things right. Maybe your entire experience with God has been: nobody’s perfect, but God forgives. That message isn’t necessarily incorrect, but it’s incomplete. The message of Christmas is bigger, and better, than that.*

Read John 10:1-10

* Summarize what you read. What truths do you find about God from this passage?
* Is it difficult for you to believe Jesus wants you to have life to the fullest? Why or why not?
* Do you tend to view the story of Christmas as Jesus providing forgiveness for your sins, or as Jesus setting you free from sin? What has shaped your view of the Christmas story?

Read Romans 6:12-14

* What do you think it would look like for you to “offer yourself to God?” How would your daily life be different?
* Does sin currently master you? What can you do to remind yourself that sin is not your master because Jesus has set you free? How can this group support you?
* As we head into Christmas and wrestle with this truth of Jesus as more than one who forgives, but as one who came to rescue us from sin and give us abundant life, spend some time memorizing and meditating on this verse:

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

* What do you take away from this verse? How does it apply to Sunday’s sermon? What steps will you take to live daily in the truth that this verse gives to you?

180-Day Guided Tour of the Bible

**Reading Plan for Week of December 17th**

Day 51. Proverbs 4: Life Advice

Day 52. Proverbs 10: One Liners

Day 53. Proverbs 31: More Valuable the Rubies

Day 54. Song of Songs 2: Love Story

Day 55. Ecclesiastes 3: A Time for Everything

Reminder: There will be No Service on Sunday

December 31, 2017. Service will resume on Sunday January 7, 2018.

WHO NEEDS CHRISTMAS?

“WE DO”

Wave Church SD | DEC. 17, 2017

**THE EVENTS OF CHRISTMAS WOULD BE UNBELIEVABLE 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.”*

**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.*

**Matthew 1:1 (ESV)** *1The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham…*

**MATTHEW BELIEVED JESUS WAS THE LONG-AWAITED MESSIAH**

* MESSIAH = CHRIST
* JESUS = YASHUA OR JOSHUA

***Matthew 1:18-20 (ESV)*** *18Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.*

* **THE VIRGIN BIRTH WAS NOT NEEDED OR EXPECTED TO PROVE THE MESSIAH.**
* **THE ONLY REASON THE VIRIGIN BIRTH MAKES IT INTO THE CHRISTMAS STORY IS BECAUSE IT WAS TRUE.**

***Matthew 1:21-23 (ESV)*** *21She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” 22All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:  23“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).*

**WE MISS OUR NEED FOR CHRISTMAS WHEN WE REDUCE CHRISTMAS TO FORGIVENESS.**

**WHY DO WE NEED CHRISTMAS?**

* **CHRISTMAS IS AN INDICTMENT THAT OUR CONDITION IS FAR WORSE THAN WE REALIZE; WE CAN’T SAVE OURSELVES.**
* **WE NEED CHRISTMAS BECAUSE WE NEED A SAVIOR.**

**John 8:7, 10-11 (ESV)** *8Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her*… *10Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” 11She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.”*

**John 10:10 (ESV)** *10The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly…*

**Romans 6:12-14, 23 (ESV)** *12Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. 13Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. 14For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace…**23For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

* **WHEREVER SIN IS, SOMETHING ALWAYS DIES.**
* **WHEREVER JESUS IS, SOMETHING ALWAYS COMES BACK TO LIFE.**