

GROUP DISCUSSION SHEET

Living Advent | Week 2 | December 8, 2024

Scripture and Big Idea

Micah 5:2-5 | Jesus is the completion of God's promise of peace to all people.

Questions for Connection *(Offer these to help the group become comfortable and connected)*

1. Have a White Elephant exchange. Everyone brings something wrapped from their home to exchange. Each gift is chosen from the table and opened. Create a deck of 25 cards. The cards say: "exchange with the person on your left", "everyone pass gift to the right", "exchange with someone wearing red", etc. Each person takes a card and follows directions until all the cards are gone.
2. What Christmas traditions did you practice in your family?

Questions for Study *(Fact questions get people reading the Bible. Application questions get people talking. Both are needed.)*

Warm up: Tell of a time when you experienced peace when circumstances were not peaceful.
Which of the video clips in the Live it Out were most impactful to you this week?

Read Micah 5:2-5a

1. Why do you think God chose Bethlehem, a small seemingly insignificant town, as the birthplace for the Messiah? What does that say about what God values? When have you seen God use the insignificant or overlooked to accomplish his purpose?
2. What does it mean for the ruler to come "from of old, from ancient days"? How do you interpret this in the context of eternity and the claims of Jesus in John 8:58?
3. What do the descriptions of the ruler as one who shepherds and brings peace tell us about the character of the Messiah? How has Jesus fulfilled this description in the past, present and future?
4. Biblical "Peace" signifies wholeness, completeness and flourishing in every aspect of life. How is this different from the world's understanding of peace? John 14:27 How has Jesus brought wholeness to you?
5. How can talking to Jesus in everyday stressful circumstances make a difference in how you experience his peace? (Phil 4:6-7)
6. What do Matthew 5:9 and 2 Cor. 5:17-18 say about our role as peacemakers in the world? Are you more of a peacemaker between God and people or between people and people? Why are both important?
7. In what situations or relationships have you witnessed someone being an agent for peace? Where is God prompting you to be an agent of peace? How can your group pray for you?

"Go to" for any text

1. What is your biggest take away from this lesson?
2. What did you learn about God from this passage?
3. How will you pray differently as a result of what you learned?
4. What one change will you make in your life from this lesson?
5. What is a key verse for you from this text?
6. So what? Why is this passage important?

Questions to ask Jesus *(Offer these for personal reflection before your group prayer time)*

1. Ask Jesus, "Where is one area of my life where you are calling me to actively bring peace?"
2. Ask Jesus, "Who do you want me to pray for today?"