

# An Intro to Yahweh

## GETTING READY TO MEET GOD

- ▶ How is my **POSTURE**?

## WHO IS HE?

- (1) **HE SPEAKS ME** – personal and knowable  
Exodus 3:4 & 5 Ephesians 5:21-33 Psalm 34:15
- (2) **DIFFERENT** – holy and makes holy  
Isaiah 6:3 Exodus 15:11 Psalm 77:13
- (3) **COMPASSIONATE** – cares about me  
Psalm 8:4 Exodus 34:6 Psalm 86:15 Psalm 103:8
- (4) **SUFFICIENT** – all he is and has is enough – I AM  
2 Corinthians 12:9 Psalm 46 Psalm 68:4-10
- (5) **FAITHFUL** – he will do what he says  
Exodus 3:12

## TIME FOR EGYPT

- ▶ I am not \_\_\_\_\_, but in Christ I am \_\_\_\_\_.
- ▶ Until we become **SLAVES** to Christ, we will never be **FREE**.

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of November 30, 2015

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This week is the last meeting of the Fall Quarter. The homework has been shortened to allow your group to look back on how God has worked this past quarter, take Communion and complete the Feedback Forms. The Winter Growth Group Quarter will begin the week of January 17, 2016. Have a great holiday season celebrating the birth of our Lord! Merry Christmas!

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## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

## MY STORY

**1.** The Christmas holidays bring out a variety of traditions that can also bring out an intriguing mixture of personal preferences and tastes. To celebrate our diversity, jot down your favorite / least favorite in each category during the Christmas season:

- ❄ Christmas food
- ❄ Store to shop
- ❄ Christmas song
- ❄ Christmas decoration
- ❄ Christmas present as a child

**2.** As you look back on this quarter, what are one or two things about your Growth Group experience that you have appreciated most? (It can be time spent together, how your group has encouraged you to continue to live your life for Christ, a service project, spiritual breakthrough, growth challenge or anything else.)

## THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

**1.** We all experience the blur and distraction of the Christmas advertising machine and the often unmet expectations it can create. One of the ways to keep Jesus in perspective as the "reason for the season" is to remember our need for a Savior and what he has done for us. How does Isaiah 9:6-7 expand our understanding of who Jesus is and his role in our lives?

### Isaiah 9:6-7

<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> Of the greatness of his government and peace

there will be no end.  
He will reign on David's throne  
and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it  
with justice and righteousness  
from that time on and forever.  
The zeal of the LORD Almighty  
will accomplish this. *[NIV]*

**2.** In addition to the “good news” of what Jesus has done for us, there are also benefits we gain through his transforming power in our lives. Based on the verses below, what benefits do we receive as a result of Jesus' sacrifice and our commitment to follow him?

### **2 Corinthians 5:7**

<sup>7</sup> For we live by faith, not by sight. *[NIV]*

### **Acts 1:8**

<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” *[NIV]*

### **Romans 5:1**

*Peace and Hope*

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, *[NIV]*

### **Romans 8:37-39**

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*[NIV]*

## **REMEMBERING**

As followers of Christ, we are able to celebrate the Christmas season because of the amazing gift God has given us – the gift of his son Jesus, born that we might have life through his death and resurrection! Communion is about remembering just that. Your time together this week will conclude by taking Communion and remembering this great gift God has given us through his son Jesus.

To prepare for Communion, read Luke 2:1-7 22:14-20 & John 15:12-17. What catches your attention as a good reminder of what Jesus has done for you?

Looking back at the five descriptions of God that Chris used in this weekend's teaching, which would be most meaningful for you to remember during this Christmas season?



## **YOU'VE MADE A DIFFERENCE!**

Thanks for all you have done to make a difference in our community this past year! Here is a sampling of what you've accomplished:

- 400+ backpacks donated for back to school
- 396 people at game nights for Downstown
- 65 units of blood donated
- 850 lbs of peanut butter collected
- 7,000 + meals served
- 1 giant truckload of winter supplies for homeless shelters
- \$19,000 raised for Pregnancy Resource Center
- 8,750 backpacks packed for Got Your Back
- 400+ military members served at outreach summer picnic
- 68 military wives given baby showers

### **Christmas Outreach Tree**

Beginning November 28, stop by the Christmas Outreach Trees at your campus and choose an ornament with a wish from a local family or organization in need. Buy a present listed on the ornament such as toys, sports equipment, diapers, baby blankets, along with items for parents in need and local homeless shelters. Return the unwrapped present to your campus by December 13 with the attached ornament and help make a difference this season.

**As the New Year begins**, watch for more opportunities to serve as a Growth Group and make a difference in our community in the name of Jesus!

