

Peter's Denial

Life Group Study Questions

For the week of December 1, 2019

Because this is the last meeting of the Fall Quarter, the Life Group Study Questions are shorter than normal. As usual, your final meeting will include a look back on how God has worked this past quarter and the option to take Communion as a group. If you haven't already, you will also take some time to fill out an online Feedback Form about your group experience and your plans for the Winter Quarter. As a reminder, the form was emailed to you on Monday, December 2. You can also access it here - Link to Forms: lifegroups.northcoastchurch.com/feedback

The Winter Life Group Quarter will begin the week of January 12, 2020. Have a great few weeks off celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior! Merry Christmas!

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

Many of us have funny memories of Christmas traditions, some of which we either loved or despised. Rate the list of Christmas traditions below with the following descriptors: Love It – Indifferent – Not a Fan

- Homemade Christmas sweaters
- Christmas carolers at your door
- Eggnog
- Homemade Christmas decorations
- Pictures with Santa and/or animal pictures with Santa
- Putting Christmas decorations up before Thanksgiving
- White elephant gift exchange
- Watching the movie "A Christmas Story" for the umpteenth time

CHRISTMAS REMEMBERED

Christmas is a time full of fun traditions. To help keep those traditions in perspective, people will often say it's not about what you get, but what you give. Though this principle is a powerful one to remember, it actually misses the mark of what Christmas is about. Christmas really is about what we get! It's about God sending His son Jesus to us! As we enter this Christmas season we want to embrace how Christmas actually is a time to celebrate what we have been given. Take a moment and ask God to speak to you as you read through the following passages and reflect on the incredible gift of life we have been given through His son Jesus. Jot down anything that catches your attention regarding the significance and power of who Jesus is and what He has done for us.

Optional: Before you look up the verses, you can check out the 5-minute video link below from The Bible Project that sets up the story of Jesus beyond what we read in the gospels. [youtube.com/watch?v=OLezoUvOEq](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OLezoUvOEq)

(NIV – New International Version)

Isaiah 9:6-7 - 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. ⁷Of 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.

Luke 2:1-7 - In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³And everyone went to their own town to register. ⁴So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was

pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Philippians 2:5-8 - In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!

John 3:16 - For 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.

John 10:10 - The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

John 15:12-17 - My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

Looking back at what you wrote above, what is the best reminder to help celebrate the true meaning of the Christmas season?

THANKFULNESS

1. We can be confident that God is continually at work in our lives as followers of Jesus (Philippians 1:6). As you look back on this quarter, what are you thankful for in your own life and your Life Group experience?

(It can be a specific way God encouraged you, time spent together in your group, how your group has helped you to continue to live your life for Jesus, something new you learned, a service project, spiritual breakthrough, something that challenged you to grow or anything else.)

Philippians 1:6 - being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

2. Looking back at what you wrote in the Christmas Remembered question above, what are you most thankful for about who God is and what He has done for you in 2019?

TAKING IT HOME

As followers of Jesus, we are able to celebrate the Christmas season because of the amazing gift God has given us – the gift of His son, Jesus. The closing time in your group this week will end with your group thanking God for what He has done this past year, as well as an option to take Communion.

Emmanuel (No More Waiting)

(A New Christmas Worship Song by our own North Coast Worship Ministry)

Check out the song online! northcoastchurch.com/music

Whispers from prophets of a king
Covered in darkness wandering
We were waiting
Light of the world awakes the dawn
Born of a virgin Christ the Son
We were waiting now the King has come to us

Behold the King of Glory
The Son of Man is worthy
Jesus has come
Jesus the King has come Amen

Our Hope is born the Prince of Peace
Covered in glory King of Kings
No more waiting
Sin and oppression now will cease
Chains shall He break to set us free
No more waiting the revival has begun

Behold the King of Glory
The Son of Man is worthy
Jesus has come
Jesus the King

Oh come let us adore Him
Our lives a gift before Him
Jesus has come
Jesus the King has come Amen

No more waiting
God is with us now
Hallelujah
Emmanuel

Words & Music by North Coast Music

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CHRISTMAS TREE OUTREACH

You may have noticed Christmas has arrived at North Coast Church! Check out the Christmas Outreach at your campus to choose an ornament. The ornaments have needs from all of our community partners, whom we'd like to bless in a big way this year! Bring the unwrapped gift and the ornament back to your campus by December 15th. Learn more about ways you can get involved at northcoastcommunityservice.org



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

For unto you is born this day in the city of David
a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

- The Life Group Team