

WHY JESUS?

WHYJESUS.INFO



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SERIES 3 | HAPPY HOLIDAYS...NO OFFENSE

Sermon Based Small Group Study

December 2017

Northeast Christian Church

Welcome

There has never been anyone more famous, infamous, studied, misunderstood, or talked about than Jesus of Nazareth.

But after all that has been written and said about him, many still don't really know who Jesus is. Who was he? Who did he say he was? What did he say about himself?

We are so excited about this series here at Northeast. We hope that you is ready to take a deep dive into the life and teachings and of Jesus. We pray that it is transformational for the lives of your group.

We want to draw your attention to something we are doing during this series. During the *Why Jesus* series, we want to challenge you and your group to read through all four Gospel accounts. So on the bottom of each week's study as well as at the back of your packet, you will see the readings that you are your group can do to read through the Gospels.

As always, we are here to help. Have questions? Let us know.

-Northeast Small Groups Team

How to Use these Sessions

All of our Small Group sessions are formatted the same. Each week is broken down into four parts: Theme Introduction, Group Opener, Group Discussion, and Action Steps.

- The **Big Idea** is the one thing that we want everyone to walk away with. If you had to summarize the entire study in one sentence, this is it.
- The **Group Opener** is a way to get the conversation going. Don't worry – we won't make you do any goofy group exercises and do any bad youth group ice-breaker games. However, this allows everyone in your group to get to know each other in a different way and to feel comfortable.
- The **Group Discussion** is the heart of your group study. This is where we will dig into God's Word and discuss how it applies to our lives.
- The **Action Steps** are the place where we see how what we have learned impacts our lives during the week.

You may not get to all of the different questions and topics within your discussion guide and that's just fine. It is more important that your group has a deep and fruitful conversation than completing all of the questions.

SESSION 1

December 2 & 3
WEEKEND

GIVE

BIG IDEA

We give to others because we have been blessed so much.

GROUP OPENER

Share with your group your favorite memory of being able to help someone out during the Christmas season. How did that make you feel? What did you learn from that experience?

GROUP DISCUSSION

- Have you ever been on the receiving end of a very generous gift? What was that like for you?
- Giving to others is a centerpiece of the Christmas season. Why do we often only focus on being generous during this time of year?
- Think about the Christmas story. How did the generosity of a few make a huge impact on the circumstances of Mary and Joseph?
- Review the parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14-29 (You can read it together as a group if you like). How does this relate to our generosity today?
- Many of us look at giving to others as an "extra" to our faith. In reality it is a responsibility. How does this change your mindset about giving?
- Continue reading in Matthew 25:31-46. Who is Jesus saying that we need to be giving to?
- How is our generosity attractive to those who don't follow Jesus?

ACTION STEPS

As a Group

- Pray for those in your group.
- Talk about some ways that your group can give to those in need this Christmas.

Gospel Reading for This Week

- Monday: Mark 8
- Tuesday: Mark 9
- Wednesday: Mark 10:1-31
- Thursday: Mark 10:32-52
- Friday: Mark 11

SESSION 2

COMMUNITY

BIG IDEA

We were made for community.

GROUP OPENER

Share with your group a time when you a family or work gathering has gone horribly, hysterically wrong. What happened? What did you learn from that experience?

GROUP DISCUSSION

- The Christmas season is full of parties and gatherings. How do these add to the joy of the season? How do these add to the stress?
- The New Testament is full of examples of Biblical community. Look at Acts 2:42-47. What are some things that stick out to you about this early Christian community?
- What brought these people together and unified them?
- Read Hebrews 10:23-25. What are the actions that we are called to take in this passage?
- Often gatherings (especially family gatherings) can be dysfunctional and chaotic. What are some ways that you can take the principles of Biblical community and apply them to these situations?
- How can you motivate and help those in your group along in between meetings? How have you experienced that in your group?
- Take some time to let your group know how they have helped you in your walk with God. How has this group helped you grow?

ACTION STEPS

As a Group

- Pray for those in your group.

Gospel Reading for This Week

- Monday: Mark 12:1-27
- Tuesday: Mark 12:28-44
- Wednesday: Mark 13
- Thursday: Mark 14:1-52
- Friday: Mark 14:53-72

SESSION 3

A FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

BIG IDEA

In a dark world, Jesus is our hope.

GROUP OPENER

Share with your group what your biggest hope is for the coming season. Maybe it's that your family can all get along this year. Maybe it's that you can get through it all without a mountain of debt. Whatever it is, we all have a few hopes for this Christmas.

GROUP DISCUSSION

- It seems that the world is in desperate need of hope. How does the Christmas season point to the fact that Jesus is our hope?
- Read John 1:1-14. What do the first few verses say about the identity of Jesus right at the beginning of the Gospel?
- How can the mystery of the incarnation bring hope to the world?
- How does the world still not recognize the light of Jesus?
- How can followers of Jesus help the world to see Jesus' light?
- Read verses 12 & 13 again. How does this make you feel? What does it mean to be a "child of God"?

ACTION STEPS

As a Group

- Pray for those in your group.

Gospel Reading for This Week

- Monday: Mark 15
- Tuesday: Mark 16
- Wednesday: Luke 1:1-25
- Thursday: Luke 1:26-56
- Friday: Luke 1:57-80

PRAYERS & PRAISES

Use this page to write down the prayer requests and praises of your group over these sessions. Keep reviewing these to see how God is moving in our lives as we pray for those we care about.

GROUP MEETING SCHEDULE

	Who's Hosting the Discussion?	Where are you Meeting?	Who's Bringing Snacks?
Session 1 Dec. 2 & 3			
Session 2 Dec. 9 & 10			
Session 3 Dec. 16 & 17			

GOSPELS READING PLAN SCHEDULE

As you read these passages everyday, we want to encourage you to follow the SOAP method to really digest and understand what God is trying to say to you through His Word.

S: Scripture - Read the scripture passage

O: Observation - What is this passage saying? What are some things that stick out to you?

A: Application - How does what is written in this passage apply to my life? How can I put these truths into action in my life?

P: Prayer - Ask God to reveal to you how you can more closely follow Him through His Scripture.

Week 8: Week of December 3

- Monday: Mark 8
- Tuesday: Mark 9
- Wednesday: Mark 10:1-31
- Thursday: Mark 10:32-52
- Friday: Mark 11

Week 9: Week of December 10

- Monday: Mark 12:1-27
- Tuesday: Mark 12:28-44
- Wednesday: Mark 13
- Thursday: Mark 14:1-52
- Friday: Mark 14:53-72

Week 10: Week of December 17

- Monday: Mark 15
- Tuesday: Mark 16
- Wednesday: Luke 1:1-25
- Thursday: Luke 1:26-56
- Friday: Luke 1:57-80

Week 11: Week of December 25

- Monday: Luke 2:1-20
- Tuesday: Luke 2:21-52
- Wednesday: Luke 3
- Thursday: Luke 4:1-30
- Friday: Luke 4:31-44