



Sermon-Based Discussion Guide for Home Groups

Westwood Baptist Church, Alabaster, Alabama

Jay Gordon, Pastor of Small Groups

Trey Murphy, Home Groups Director

westwood.org/groups

WestwoodGroups.com

The Perfect Gift

December 19, 2010

Rick Swing

Scripture

Luke 2:1-20 The Birth of Jesus

¹ 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.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So 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. ⁵ He 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.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Engage

What does your family do to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas? Are there any new traditions you'd like to begin to help your family remember Christ this holiday season?

Discuss

1. Although Christmas is in the past, it impacts our present and our future. Read the Scripture passage for today. What is the most incredible thing to you about the Christmas story?
2. What are some ways we can use the Christmas season to share the true meaning of Christmas with others?
3. A couple during the service gave a testimony about giving things to God. We as humans struggle to actually turn loose of things and trust God. How can we tell when we've really given something to God?
4. As a result of Christmas, we can live an eternity with God in heaven. We should live with a joy in our heart that we know the final chapter of our lives? Do you think people can see the joy in our hearts and lives?
5. Read Romans 3:20. Why does this verse show us that Christ truly is the perfect gift?

Your Next Step

Are we living our lives like Christ came to make a difference, or are we living our life like the first Christmas never happened? What is God calling you to do this week to show Christ through your life?

Children's Time

Today we're talking about Christmas and what a real gift God gave us on Christmas.

1. Can anyone tell us the real meaning of Christmas? Why is that so important? Why did He have to come?
2. Read John 1:1 and John 1:14. Who is Jesus? Explain that God came to earth in the form of a man.
3. How can you and your family celebrate the real meaning of Christmas and not just giving and opening gifts?

Other Passages Cited

John 15:5

