

Small Groups

DISCUSSION GUIDE

“A SAVIOR IN A MANGER” - PART 2

PASTOR BLACKBURN AND PASTOR JEFF SELLERS – DECEMBER 8, 2024

AS THE DISCUSSION LEADER, THERE ARE A FEW THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND:

- Pray for your group discussion time!
- Choose a few questions from the guide that will generate the most discussion in your group.

GETTING TO KNOW ME (ICEBREAKER):

- Imagine yourself in the scene of Jesus’ birth. What do you see, feel, and hear? What stands out most to you about that moment?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Have someone read Matthew 2:10-12.
- The wise men brought three gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Gold symbolized Jesus’ kingship, frankincense symbolized His role as High Priest, and myrrh symbolized His sacrifice as the Suffering Servant. How do these gifts help you understand more about who Jesus is?
- The message mentions that 60 major prophecies in the Old Testament were fulfilled through Jesus. What does it mean for your faith to know that these prophecies were fulfilled throughout hundreds of years?
- Reflecting on Isaiah’s prophecy (Isaiah 53:4-7) and the idea of Jesus being the Lamb of God, what emotions arise as you consider that Jesus came to die for our sins? How does this deepen your appreciation for His birth and sacrifice?
- Jesus calls His followers to take up their cross daily (Luke 9:22-23). What does it mean to you personally to “deny yourself and follow Him?” How can you apply this principle in your daily life?
- Christmas marks the beginning of Jesus’ earthly life, but His death and resurrection represent the end of the beginning. How does focusing on His death and resurrection alongside His birth affect how you celebrate Christmas?
- In Isaiah 53, people are compared to sheep—weak, witless, and wayward. How do you see this comparison in your own life? What does it mean for you that Jesus, as the Good Shepherd, came to rescue us?
- The message emphasizes that Jesus was born to die and that His death brings eternal life. How does this truth offer hope during your challenges or suffering?
- After reflecting on the message of myrrh and Jesus as the Suffering Servant, what is one specific way you feel called to respond to the story of Jesus’ birth this Christmas season?
- What was the most meaningful statement you heard from Sunday’s message?

PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONARIES:

- Steve & Trina Pennington – *Kenya*
- Timothy & Kelly Pollick (Amelia and Lizzie) – *Indonesia*

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Salvation Army Bell Ringing - Publix** – If you want to help, sign up at the Salvation Army table in the lobby.
- **Wednesday, December 24** – Christmas Eve Service at 6 PM (Northside Campus).