

A NEWSTORY CHURCH SERIES

# THE KING'S ARRIVAL

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Part 3: *Blue Christmas*

### Choose Your Icebreaker:

*Have you finished all your Christmas shopping?*

*What is the best Christmas gift you've ever given? And what is the best Christmas gift you've ever received (besides Jesus ;-)?*

1. What does the idea of a "Blue Christmas" mean to you personally? How does the cultural emphasis on holiday joy affect your own experience of this season? How do passages like Ecclesiastes 3:4 & Romans 12:15 speak into this situation?
2. Describe a time in your life when it felt as though life were a pile of puzzle pieces as demonstrated this past Sunday. How do you respond when life presents you with "pieces" that don't seem to fit into your expectations or plans? How can faith help in making sense of these fragmented moments? (Proverbs 3:5-6)
3. When faced with unexpected and difficult situations, how do you reconcile the idea that "in all things God works for the good of those who love him" (Romans 8:28) with the immediate pain and confusion of the circumstances? Where does something like Isaiah 55:8-9 come into play?
4. Consider Mary's response to the angel's message: "I am the Lord's servant, may it be to me as you have said." (Luke 1:38) How can we adopt this attitude of surrender and trust in the face of unexpected challenges?
5. How does the concept of 'God with us' – *Immanuel*, during times of chaos and difficulty impact your understanding of the Christmas story? (Matthew 1:23)
6. "Nothing is impossible with God" (Luke 1:37) ... "Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.'" (Mark 10:27) Discuss.
7. Who are two or three people you pray for right now as a group and invite to the upcoming Christmas Service to draw closer to *The King of Kings*?

## CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Sunday, December 24 | 9am & 11am

- Pony Rides - Petting Zoo - Yummy Food -

