MESSAGE TO CONVERSATION GUIDE
Merry & Bright | Week 2 | Christmas Wonder

1. The Christmas season is an opinionated time of year! Share with the group what your opinion is on 1) Christmas music *before* Thanksgiving, 2) White lights, color lights, or no lights, 3) opening Christmas gifts on Christmas eve.

2. During the Christmas season, are you more likely to have a *stressful spirit* or a *Christmas spirit* and why?

3. In this message, we wanted to trade Christmas stress for Christmas wonder. Wonder is defined as *a feeling of admiration & astonishment at something mysterious in one's life*. How can that definition apply to your faith this Christmas?

4. Read Luke 2:8-11. What did the angel say that the birth of Jesus would bring to all people? What makes us (and you) lose sight of that during the holidays?

5. In this message, Joel said, *we can find wonder this Christmas when we reclaim a child-like faith*. How would you describe a child-like faith?

6. Read Luke 2:15-18. People were *astonished* at the birth of Jesus. Why do you think you lose astonishment over the Christmas story? What are some practical things you can do to be astonished at the Christmas story again?

7. Dr. Suess wrote a brilliant line for the Grinch after the Grinch's plan to ruin Christmas failed, the Grinch said, *what if Christmas doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more.* Discuss this famous line.

8. Gratitude plays a major part in having a *Merry & Bright* Christmas. Sometimes we think, *I'll be grateful when I'm happy.* The truth is, we'll be happy when we're grateful. What are some specific things you can trade 'a grinchy' heart for a grateful heart this Christmas?

9. Relook at the definition of wonder (#3). What has God done in your life that gives you a sense of admiration & astonishment?

We're always looking for Bay Shore Group Leaders to use the 'Message To Conversation Guide' to facilitate a conversation about the message. Interested in going through our Group Leaders training? Let us know!