

SHACKLED

Community Group Discussion: 12.08 - 12.22

SERIES OVERVIEW

You may be familiar with Charles Dickens' classic short novel, A Christmas Carol. Dickens' character Ebenezer Scrooge is haunted by the ghosts of Christmas past, present, and future. His former employer, Jacob Marley visits him as a spirit wearing shackles, symbolizing the failings of their life on earth. Whether sins of the past, present, or future, we often wear our own proverbial shackles and are bound by them in this life. The good news of Christmas, however, is God putting on flesh and becoming as one of us. In Jesus, we find freedom from the shackles of our past, our present, and our future.

MAIN TEXT

John 1:14, Isaiah 9:6-7, Matthew 24:44, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, 1 Corinthians 15:58

GETTING STARTED

Do you spend the most time thinking about your past, your present, or your future?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read Isaiah 9:6-7. Which of these descriptions, of what Jesus will be called, do you most resonate? Why?
2. Jesus is called, "Wonderful counselor." How often do you go to Jesus for counsel? Do you more often ask him to help you with your plan, or do you seek his direction before making a plan?
3. Read Matthew 24:44. What does it mean to live ready? What distractions in your life make this difficult?
4. Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. As believers, we don't live *for* salvation, we live *from* salvation. How well are you doing at living with this confidence daily? Where do you need to have more confidence?

5. Read 1 Corinthians 15:58. As citizens of God's kingdom, we should contribute to that kingdom making things on earth as they are in heaven. As you look at the world around you, where do you see brokenness? How can you participate in God's work to heal that brokenness?

NEXT STEPS

Christmas is the reminder that Jesus came to secure our future with God. That has major implications for not only our future, but for everyday life. Pray as a group that you would live confidently and boldly as contributors to God's kingdom.

Discuss how as a group, you can bless those around you. Where do you see God at work, and how can you join in what he is doing?



Dec. 22: 5 & 7 p.m.

Both Campuses