

Life Group STUDY GUIDE

What you will need to supplement this guide:

1. A copy of the outline provided for notes on this message (copy from message or downloaded from the COASTAL APP.
2. A Bible or Bible APP to refer to verses.

PURSUING LIFE TOGETHER SUNDAY MESSAGE REVIEW

NOTE to the Life Group Leader: This guide is provided as a tool to assist you in facilitating a structured discussion with your group. When used in conjunction with the outline notes and a Bible this tool will ensure that your group will *Engage Authentically*. The questions are merely recommended “talk starters”. It is important for you to let God help you navigate through the conversation as you *pursue life together* as a group.

OPEN IN PRAYER

STARTER QUESTIONS:

Where have you seen God at work in your life since we last met?

What stood out to you from the message this week?

MAIN IDEA:

- REVIEW THE MAIN TOPIC OF THE MESSAGE. Allow time for discussion
- READ THE MAIN SCRIPTURE FROM THE MESSAGE OUTLINE.

How did this verse speak to you in your life?

- REVIEW THE SUB-TOPICS of the MESSAGE.

Have someone read each of the verses that were highlighted in the message, and briefly discuss.

Is there an area that you feel God is speaking to you through this message?

FINAL THOUGHTS:

- SUMMARIZE the main idea of this message.

Would anyone like to share your thoughts about what we discussed today?

How can we pray for you as a group?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

THE RESISTANCE
"The Dark Side of Christmas"

"Some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the newborn king...?" King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this... called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he... told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!" ...When it was time to leave, they (the Wise Men) returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod. ...Herod was furious when he realized that the wise men had outwitted him. He sent soldiers to kill all the boys in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under, based on the wise men's report of the star's first appearance." Matt. 2:1-16 (NLT)

The true Heart of the Christmas Story:

- Jesus understands you and what you're going through because he's been there.

Because Jesus experienced the same things that we have,
it makes Him uniquely qualified to understand what we are going through.

"This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin." Hebrews 4:15 (NLT)

Jesus gives us permission to be who we are,
while at the same time giving us hope because of who He is.

The true Heart of the Christmas Story:

- Jesus rescues you from what you're destined to because he came here.

"Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrongdoing." Habakkuk 1:13 (HCSB).

"Your sinful deeds have built a barrier between you and your God. Your sins have made God turn his face from you." Isaiah 59:2 (TPT)

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11 (KJV)

“(Mary) will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21 (NLT)

The word "to forgive," *aphiemi* means to send away,

“He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west.” Ps. 103:12 (NLT)

“Who is a God like You, who forgives sin... Yes, You will throw all our sins into the deep sea.” Micah 7:18-19 (NLV)

“Everyone who puts his trust in Christ will be made right with God.” Acts 13:38-39 (NLV)

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- Jesus rescues you from what you're destined to because he came here.