



LIFEgroup 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 LIFEgroup 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 MYSTERY OF CHRISTMAS

“Evidence”

St. Edith Stein says, *“the Christian mysteries are an indivisible whole. If we become immersed in one, we are led to all the others.”*

Prophecies foretold are the fingerprints of Jesus

A prophecy is a divinely inspired prediction, a foretelling of events, a declaration of a change on the horizon

1. Conceived of the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary

THE PROPHECY FORETOLD: Isaiah 7:14

“All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means ‘God with us’).”

THE PROPHECY FULFILLED: Matthew 1:20-22

“As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. “Joseph, son of David,” the angel said, “do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord’s message through his prophet...”

2. The Runt of the Litter: Bethlehem

THE PROPHECY FORETOLD: Micah 5:2 (The Message)

“But you, Bethlehem, David’s country, the runt of the litter - from you will come the leader who will shepherd-rule Israel. He’ll be no pretender. His family tree is ancient and distinguished”

THE PROPHECY FULFILLED: Luke 2:3-7

“All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David’s ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child. And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.”

3. Refugees Out of Egypt

THE PROPHECY FORETOLD: Hosea 11:1

“When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.”

THE PROPHECY FULFILLED: Matthew 2:13-15

“After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up! Flee to Egypt with the child and his mother,” the angel said. “Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.” That night Joseph left for Egypt with the child and Mary, his mother, and they stayed there until Herod’s death. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: I called my Son out of Egypt.”

4. **Jesus' Family Tree: The Outcast, The Scandalous, The Foreigner and Some Regular Folk Too**

THE PROPHECY FORETOLD: Jeremiah 33:14-16 (ESV)

"Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

THE PROPHECY FULFILLED: Matthew 1:1-17

5. **The Healing Touch**

THE PROPHECY FORETOLD: Isaiah 35:5-6

"And when he comes, he will open the eyes of the blind and unplug the ears of the deaf. The lame will leap like a deer, and those who cannot speak will sing for joy!"

THE PROPHECY FULFILLED: Luke 7:22

"Then he told John's disciples, 'Go back to John and tell him what you have seen and heard - the blind see, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor.'

6. **Set the Captives Free**

THE PROPHECY FULFILLED (FORETOLD): Luke 4:17-21 (Isaiah 61:1)

"And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.'" And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

7. **This Was The Plan All Along**

THE PROPHECY FORETOLD: Genesis 3:14-15

"So the Lord God said to the serpent: 'Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed. He will strike your head, and you will strike His heel.'

THE PROPHECY FULFILLED: HEBREWS 2:14

Because God's children are human beings — made of flesh and blood — the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death."

8. **The Point of it All**

THE PROPHECY FORETOLD: Isaiah 53:5-12

But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We

