

# Life Changing Community Group Discussion Questions

week of 12/7/25

## Summary

This message this Sunday was delivered through a children's Christmas program called 'Carol of the Toys.' Pastor Mark emphasized that having children proclaim the Christmas message is particularly appropriate because it reminds us that Jesus, fully God and fully man, was once a child himself. The program featured children acting out the story of Christmas toys searching for the missing Baby Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Through songs, skits, and dialogue, the children proclaimed key truths about Christmas: that it's not Christmas without Jesus, that He came as Emmanuel (God with us), that we don't need to fear because God is in control, and that Jesus is the Prince of Peace who brings hope, joy, and new life to all.

Pastor Mark framed this as a different kind of proclamation - instead of herald angels, we have herald children singing the message of Christ's birth. He reminded the congregation that this affirms the central truth of Christian faith: the Word became flesh and lived among us. The children served as proclaimers of the Gospel, declaring that Jesus, the eternal Son of God, became human and was born as a baby to be our Savior.

## Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for gathering us together to worship You. As we begin our time of discussion, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us today. Help us to approach Your Word with childlike faith and wonder, just as the children proclaimed Your truth this

morning. May Your Holy Spirit guide our conversation and help us to see Jesus more clearly through the eyes of faith. We surrender our own agendas and ask that You would speak to each of us in the way we need to hear from You today. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

## Ice Breaker

What is your favorite Christmas memory from when you were a child, or what Christmas tradition do you most look forward to each year?

## Key Verses

1 Chronicles 16:9-10

Philippians 4:4-5

Jeremiah 29:13

Psalms 105:1-4

Isaiah 11:1-9

## Questions

1. Pastor Mark emphasized that Jesus was once a child just like the children in the program. How does thinking about Jesus as a child change or deepen your understanding of the incarnation?
2. The children's program taught that 'it's not Christmas without Jesus.' In what ways do you see our culture celebrating Christmas while leaving Jesus out? How can we keep Christ central in our own celebrations?

3. One of the key messages was 'get up, stand tall, no fear' because God is in control. What fears or anxieties are you facing this Christmas season that you need to surrender to God's control?
4. The search party was looking for Baby Jesus who had gone missing. In what ways might we 'lose' Jesus in the busyness of the Christmas season? How can we intentionally 'find' Him again?
5. The candy cane symbolism reminded us of Jesus' sacrifice - the red for His blood, white for His sinlessness, and the shepherd's staff shape for His guidance. What everyday objects or Christmas symbols help you remember spiritual truths?
6. Joseph received messages from angels in dreams telling him not to be afraid. When has God given you peace or direction during a fearful or uncertain time in your life?
7. The program emphasized that we can always rejoice because Jesus gives us hope, joy, peace, and new life. Which of these - hope, joy, peace, or new life - do you most need Jesus to provide for you right now?
8. Pastor Mark said the children proclaiming the Christmas message is 'so very appropriate' because it reminds us of the incarnation. What can we learn from children about faith, worship, and approaching God?

# Life Application

This week, intentionally make room in your heart for Christ to be born anew. Choose one specific way you will keep Jesus central in your Christmas preparations - whether through daily prayer, reading the nativity story, serving others, or creating a new family tradition that focuses on Christ. Share this commitment with someone who can encourage you to follow through.

## Key Takeaways

- The incarnation means Jesus, fully God and fully man, was once a child just like us, making children's proclamation of His birth particularly meaningful.
- Christmas loses its true meaning when we forget that it's all about Jesus - He is the reason for the season.
- We don't need to fear because God is in control, just as the angel told Joseph not to be afraid.
- Jesus came as Emmanuel (God with us) to bring hope, joy, peace, and new life to all people.
- We should actively seek the Lord with all our hearts, and when we do, we will find Him.

# Ending Prayer

Gracious God, thank You for the reminder today that You came to us as a baby, Emmanuel - God with us. Help us to never lose sight of the wonder and miracle of the incarnation. As we go into this week, may we keep Jesus at the center of our Christmas celebrations and daily lives. Give us childlike faith to trust You completely, even when we face uncertainty or fear. Help us to be like the children today - bold proclaimers of Your good news to a world that needs to hear about Your love. May the hope, joy, peace, and new life that Jesus brings fill our hearts and overflow to those around us. We pray this in the precious name of Jesus, our Savior and King. Amen.