

# RIVERS CROSSING COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Discussion Guide  
December 13, 2015



## InstaChristmas – Week #2

### INTRODUCTION:

1. When you think about Christmas, what filters

### DIVE IN:

1. The big idea this week was that with the birth of Christ, Grace came. The two of the biggest themes of the New Testament teaching is grace and truth. They are two concepts in faith that can often seem in opposition. Have each of your group members share their experience with these two – which way do they lean? Are they more grace driven, or more truth driven? What are the struggles with leaning to one way or the other – freedom to sin, legalism, etc...?
2. Take the time to read together Ephesians 2:1-10 as a group and then answer the following questions...

“Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God’s anger, just like everyone else.

But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God’s grace that you have been saved!) For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus.

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” Ephesians 2:1-10 NLT

3. Many of us have a filter about the Christmas story and the arrival of Christ in our world to bring grace... The filter is that it’s for the world in general, but not for me personally. What stands in your way of claiming the grace of Jesus for yourself?
4. John 8:32 says, “And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” Pastor Paul said, “the truth will set you free, but if grace doesn’t follow in it’s place, legalism will set in..” Talk

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about a time in your own experience when you've allowed legalism to take the place of freedom in your relationship with Jesus.

5. Pastor Paul's last point was "Grace from Him produces grace in us." It's hard to be a "grace giver" to the people around you if you've not yet received grace in your own life. Take some time as a group to talk through this concept and pray for one another for the following two things – Some of your group needs to embrace grace fully for the first time. To find forgiveness and freedom from sin, from past pains, from poor choices, etc... They can't give grace to people because they haven't experienced grace yet in their own lives. Others in your group have received grace, but they're withholding it from people in their lives. They need to extend the same grace to someone in their life that they have allowed bitterness, frustration, or anger to take root. Discuss these two concepts, confess to one another, and pray for your group together that they'd take these steps forward.

### NOW WHAT:

1. What part of this week's message has had the greatest impact on you? What truth(s) has God taught you through the message and our group discussion?
2. What do you need to do with that truth this week to become a fully engaged follower of Jesus?