

# Community Group

Week of December 11

## Matthew 2:13-23

Today's big idea: Many times the holidays remind us of loss and yet God is still here with us—Immanuel.

- Start out by going through the Community Group Guidelines together.
- What are ways that you keep your focus on Jesus during the Christmas season?

### Bible Study

- Someone pray that God would help us hear from him.
- Use the Bible Storytelling technique to tell the story of Joseph, Mary and Jesus fleeing to Egypt.
- Retell the story together as a group.
- Read the story from Matthew 2:13-23 in the Bible.
- What were different ways in which Joseph, Mary and others may have experienced loss in this story?
- What were all the prophecies that were fulfilled just in this story?
- If their goal would have been to avoid loss how could things have gone differently?

### Going Deeper

- What are some losses that you have experienced and how have they impacted your life?
- How have those losses impacted your relationship with God?
- Like Joseph and Mary, what steps of faith and obedience do you need to take in spite of the loss you may experience?
- How can you help people around you who may be dealing with loss especially around the holidays?
- Close your time together by sharing prayer requests and praying for each other.

Christmas Caroling is a fun way to spend some time with your community group and visit others during this Christmas time. If you need help with coordinating or music, please reach out to Naomi.



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## COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDELINES

### Confidentiality

Keeping things that are shared in the group confidential builds trust and shows value to the person. Confidentiality can prevent gossip that only values the story; Jesus always valued the person above their story or their sin.

### Don't Rescue & Don't Fix

When someone is sharing something deeply personal and/or painful there can be a tendency to try and make them feel better about themselves or the situation. Often this will cause people to stop sharing and results in their not going as deep as they might have gone. Resist the temptation to rescue people. Try to hear what people are sharing without trying to fix them. If they want your advice, they will ask for it. You may want to take time later to ask if you can offer some advice.

### No Crosstalk

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. Don't have side conversations. Trust is built in the moments when everyone feels like they are being listened to and heard by the entire group. Treat others in the group as you would want to be treated.

### Use Humor Responsibly

Fun is an essential part of Small Groups; however, when meeting in the Biblical Storytelling time keep sarcastic comments, jokes and laughter to a minimum to allow for an atmosphere of authenticity and vulnerability.

### Give Everyone a Chance to Share

Be sensitive to the amount of time you share. Encourage everyone to participate in group discussions.

### Use "I" Statements

During small group, we want to hear your personal thoughts and perspectives. Using "I" statements to answer discussion questions allows you to speak for yourself rather than generalizing by using terms such as "them", "the church", "us" or "we".

### Fight for Relationship

Relationships reaches a whole new level when conflict is resolved in a healthy manner. When conflict or sin issues arise between group members, commit to fight for the relationship and discuss the struggle with the person you are in conflict with or seek wise advice.