

Community Group Leaders Guide

Week of December 4

Luke 2:1-7

Today's big idea: What are we supposed to do when the season of peace actually cause more anxiety?

This part REQUIRES SET UP. You may want to do a third round where people can share other things that either bring them peace or anxiety. Many times the real answers come out the second time around.

- Today we are going to play another game of Me Too. Put a bucket in the middle of the room and give everyone a handful of candy. One person will share and throw a piece of candy in the bucket. If you could say the same thing then you say, "Me Too," and also throw a piece of candy in the bucket.
- First time around answer, "What brings you peace during the Christmas season?" Second time around answer, "What brings you anxiety during the Christmas season?"

Bible Study

This is only the story of Joseph and Mary in Bethlehem. This does not include the shepherds. We will get to them later in the season.

- Someone pray that God would help us hear from him.
- Use the Bible Storytelling technique to tell the story of Joseph and Mary in Bethlehem.
- Retell the story together as a group.
- Read the story from Luke 2:1-7 in the Bible.

Answers below could include government overreach, transportation issues, housing issues, lack of medical care, shame in being unmarried, poverty, etc.

- What in these verses may have caused Joseph and Mary anxiety?
- How would you describe the world that Jesus was born into and the problems that existed just from these verses?

Going Deeper

If group members struggle to share here encourage them to think about the unique perspective of each person and how they might have felt. Then see who they might relate to the most.

- How do you relate with Joseph, Mary or Jesus in regard to the anxiety causing situation and world in which they found themselves?
- How do you currently deal with anxiety that comes up in your life and what role does Jesus play in that?

Pay attention to the question above and below. Make note of group members that you may need to follow up with in order to process how they can submit their anxiety to Jesus.

- How can we help others experience the peace that passes all understanding in the midst of the anxiety producing environments in which we find ourselves?
- Close your time together by sharing prayer requests and praying for each other.



Community Group Covenants - hfcog.org

Community Group Member Covenant

- I will make attendance a priority in my schedule and involvement a priority in my participation.
- I will build trust by holding in confidence those things shared in the Community Group.
- I will engage with a disciple maker—someone that will help me grow as a disciple of Jesus and teach me how to be a disciple maker as well.

Community Group Apprentice Covenant

- I will pray for the Community Group Members daily.
- I will accept the responsibility to invite and welcome others into the Community Group.
- I will relationally disciple someone in the Community Group beyond group meetings focusing on their personal relationship with Jesus, and others they are discipling.
- I will seek to multiply the Community Group and not just grow the group.
- I will talk with my Community Group Leader each week and meet monthly beyond group meetings.

Community Group Leader Covenant

- I will pray for the Community Group Members daily.
- I will accept the responsibility to invite and welcome others into the Community Group.
- I will relationally disciple someone in or out of the Community Group.
- I will relationally disciple an apprentice focusing on their personal relationship with Jesus, leadership skills they are developing in the group meeting and others they are discipling.
- I will seek to multiply the Community Group and not just grow the group.
- I will talk with my Community Group Coach each week and meet monthly.

Community Group Coach Covenant

- I will pray for my assigned Community Group Leaders daily.
- I will relationally disciple someone.
- I will call my assigned Community Group Leaders each week focusing on their personal relationship with Jesus, process group time and their progress with their apprentice.
- I will meet with my assigned Community Group Leaders each month.
- I will talk with my Community Group Pastor every other week and meet together each month.