

Community Group

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?

- 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

- 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.

- 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

- 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?
- 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.



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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.