



Christmas

at THE CREEK

Group Discussion Guide: A Thrill of Hope | December 24, 2022

Open with prayer and an initial reflection question (5 minutes).

Take a few minutes to acknowledge God's presence as you begin your group time. Ask Him to help your group have a good discussion and to help you internalize the Scriptures.

Then, ask: "What was your favorite Christmas gift that you received growing up?"

Read the Christmas story and debrief the sermon (30 minutes).

Select a few of these questions to help you discuss the sermon. You may even come up with a few questions that would be good for your specific group to discuss.

- **Read Matthew 1:18-2:12.** What words, phrases, or elements from the Christmas account in Matthew resonate with you the most? Why?
- In his sermon, Dan mentioned three characters in this story with three different dispositions towards Jesus. Who were they and what were their dispositions?
- How would you characterize your feelings towards Jesus? Love? Ambivalence? Opposition? Explain.
- Dan also mentioned how Jesus came so we could have our lives back. In what ways is this true with the coming of Jesus?
- In what ways has Jesus given you your own life back?
- What is God inviting you to after this conversation?

Break into gendered accountability groups for deeper conversation (30 minutes).

In this time, share vulnerably where you sense darkness in your life – it may be something going on inside of you, something happening to you, or something happening around you.

- How have you grown in your faith this past year?
- How would you like to grow in your faith this next year?
- How can this group help you do that?

Once you've finished, spend time praying for one another.



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Finish with intercessory prayer (10 minutes)

Like each week, finish your group session with prayer. You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone's prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.