

# Group Questions- Home for Christmas Week 1

12/3/23 – Pastor Kirby

## *Getting to Know Me Questions:*

- What's one of your favorite Christmas carols? What is it about this carol that's so special to you?
- As a kid, what is the one gift you always wanted, but never received?

## *Into the Bible Questions:*

- What stood out, was interesting or something you learned from the teaching?
- How was your coming to know Christ as your Savior like the dawning of a new day? Each of you give your testimony of faith. Note: It doesn't have to be flashy or look like others. Maybe you are not even sure of your story. Share about your faith walk.
- **Read Luke 2:1-21.**
- What types of emotions or thoughts do you have when you read about Christ's birth?
- What do you find most inspiring about the way Christ's birth is described in Luke 2?
- Listen to the song "Oh Holy Night" (*Side question: Do you have a favorite version? If so which one?*) – Lyrics are on the back of the page
- **Read Lamentations 3:19-26.**
- The author says "I remember"; "I call to mind"; "I say to myself". Describe a time where you had to do this for yourself in faith. What was going on? Why did you have to do this?
- Pastor Kirby said that A New Day with Jesus...
- ...brings exactly what we need – **Read v. 24**
  - Part of getting what we need means waiting. Is it a struggle for you to wait for things? What's the difference between waiting and lazy?
- ...brings us the hope to keep going. – **Read v. 25**
  - **Read Hebrews 10:23**
  - Talk about a time (your emotions, thoughts, actions etc) when everything felt hopeless.
  - What was the final outcome? How did that affect/change you?
- ...brings the help that we're seeking. – **Read v. 26**
  - Help, like miracles, look and can be defined differently for each person and situation. Talk about a time in which you received help – don't need to over-spiritualize this – Just a time that you got help that you really needed.
  - Ok, now, talk about God in this. Did you see God in it? How?
- Where in your life do you feel tired and weary? What has caused your weariness?

## *Application Questions:*

- What needs do you currently have that you are relying on Christ to provide?
- How can we, as a group, help with those needs? (We are the hands and feet of Jesus)

## **O Holy Night**

### **[Verse 1]**

O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining  
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining  
'Til He appears and the soul felt its worth  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn  
Fall on your knees; O hear the Angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born  
O night, O Holy night, O night divine!

### **[Verse 2]**

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming  
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand  
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming  
Here come the Wise Men from Orient land  
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger  
In all our trials born to be our friend  
He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger  
Behold your King; before Him lowly bend  
Behold your King; before Him lowly bend

### **[Verse 3]**

Truly He taught us to love one another;  
His law is love and His Gospel is Peace  
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother  
And in His name, all oppression shall cease  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we  
Let all within us Praise His Holy name  
Christ is the Lord; O praise His name forever!  
His power and glory evermore proclaim  
His power and glory evermore proclaim

## Advent Week 1: 12/3/23

- Advent: Latin for Waiting
- Advent Theme: Home For Christmas
- Holy Night (*Cantique de Noël*)
- “The Weary World Rejoices”
- Question: What does it look like to rejoice in the weariness?
- Rejoicing is not the same as cheerful

Luke 2:1

<sup>1</sup> In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.

- “A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices.”
- Translation: “The entire world thrills with hope on this night that gives it a savior.”

Lamentations 3:19-20

<sup>19</sup> I remember my affliction and my wandering,  
the bitterness and the gall.

<sup>20</sup> I well remember them,  
and my soul is downcast within me.

Lamentations 3:21-23

<sup>21</sup> Yet this I call to mind

and therefore I have hope:

<sup>22</sup> Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed,  
for his compassions never fail.

<sup>23</sup> They are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:24-26

<sup>24</sup> I say to myself, “The Lord is my portion;  
therefore I will wait for him.”

<sup>25</sup> The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him,  
to the one who seeks him;

<sup>26</sup> it is good to wait quietly  
for the salvation of the Lord.

## A New Day with Jesus

1. ...brings exactly what we need.

Lamentations 3:24

<sup>24</sup> I say to myself...

Lamentations 3:24

<sup>24</sup> I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion;  
therefore I will wait for him."

**2. A New Day with Jesus...brings us the hope to keep going.**

Lamentations 3:25

<sup>25</sup> The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him,  
to the one who seeks him;

'We can live 40 days or so without food. We can live eight days or so without water. We can live four minutes or so without oxygen, but we can only live a few seconds without hope.' – Author Unknown

Hebrews 10:23

<sup>23</sup> Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

**3. A New Day with Jesus...brings the help that we're seeking.**

Lamentations 3:26

<sup>26</sup> it is good to wait quietly  
for the salvation of the Lord.

Romans 13:11-12

<sup>11</sup> And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. <sup>12</sup> The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.