



Sermon Discussion Curriculum – God with You – Luke 1:39-45 – December 4, 2022

Additional Resources:

Advent – Derwin Gray – <http://bit.ly/3VCzmxp>

Advent – J.D. Greear – <http://bit.ly/3VmXGU8>

God Came Near – Max Lucado – <http://bit.ly/3XlqqZg>

The goal of this time is to have quality connections and time together. Allow God to speak to you through His written Word. Choose questions from Know, Grow, and Show that will best help your group discuss the passage and take their next steps of faith. Don't feel like you need to use all the questions. We are praying for you as you lead your D-Group this week!

KNOW:

- What was one of your favorite gifts to give someone? Why was it special to you?
- When have you experienced a special gift in your life from a person or God? What happened?
- How has your understanding of joy changed over time? Why do you think your understanding has changed?
- What is the most frequent promise in the Bible? (*Answer: 'I will be with you'*)
- What are you most looking forward to this Advent and Christmas season?



GROW:

- In Luke 1:39-40, Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. Why was Mary in a rush to see Elizabeth?
- Read Luke 1:41-42. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!" How did Elizabeth know about Mary's pregnancy?
- In Luke 1:42 "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!" How did this message differ from the message Mary would get from people in Nazareth?
- Why is it difficult for us to remember our great value in God's eyes when we are going through hardship?
- Mary was reminded of encouraging truth while in the home of Elizabeth. How can we be reminded of the encouraging truth of all we have in Christ?
- Read Elizabeth's words found in Luke 1:44 "As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy." What does this verse tell us about the status or value of the pre-born babies?



SHOW:

- What part of Mary's poem of praise stands out to you?
- Are there attributes of God that shine especially bright for you this Christmas? What would it look like to grow in giving thanks for these attributes?
- Who are the people in your life who have questions or need to know the Lord that you can show and share the Gospel with this Christmas?
- How does Luke 1:26–56 guide us to be patient with people when they are skeptical and have questions?



Sermon Discussion Curriculum – God with You – Matthew 2:1-8, 13-20 – December 11, 2022

Additional Resources:

Advent – Derwin Gray – <http://bit.ly/3VCzmxp>

Advent – J.D. Greear – <http://bit.ly/3VmXGU8>

God Came Near – Max Lucado – <http://bit.ly/3XlqqZg>

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KNOW:

- What Christmas traditions do you and your family have?
- Describe a typical nativity set you are familiar with. How does that picture differ from how the Bible records the events?
- Have you ever been in a situation where you felt you didn't have control over it?
- Do you have babies at home, teenagers, or adult children? How do you relate to them regarding authority? How has that changed through the years?
- How would your attitude change depending on who you are approaching? CEO, professor, clerk, relative, spouse, president, King?
- What led you to seek Christ? What / Who was the "star" in your life?



GROW:

- Who were the “wise men from the east”? (Matthew 2:1)
- Herod was afraid of a great king who he would have no choice but to surrender to. Are we afraid to fully surrender to Him?
- If you were going to see Jesus with the wise men, would you come to ask or to give? To demand or to surrender? To be known or to acknowledge who He is?
- How does God being near and present to us effect your view of Him? And how you live?
- Read verse 13. Why was it necessary for Joseph to take his family and flee?
- To the wise men God chose to show the way through a star and to the people of Israel through his word and angels. How does God speak to you?
- Why was the “escape to Egypt” significant in the life of Christ? Verse 2:15.
- Read Psalm 111:10 "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge". How do we worship Him from a place of reverence?
- Would you rather have a sign like the star or the Word? Why?
- Where in the Scriptures does the Word reveal that Jesus is the King?
- If Jesus is King and near to us, how might this truth be a comfort to someone who was in pain or suffering?



SHOW:

- In the world we live in, is the birth of Jesus noticeable? What about in your circle of influence or in your own family? Why? Can you do anything about it?
- Why did the Israelites that had the prophecies and promises miss their King, while others that were not God’s people find Him?
- Consider the various responses to Christ's birth. (*Bethlehem ignored Him, Jerusalem feared Him, the wise men worshipped Him, Herod was threatened by Him, and the Religious Leaders ignored Him*). How do you feel about the implications of Christ being your King? How would you respond?



Sermon Discussion Curriculum – God with You – Luke 2:22-35 – December 18, 2022

Additional Resources:

Advent – Derwin Gray – <http://bit.ly/3VCzmxp>

Advent – J.D. Greear – <http://bit.ly/3VmXGU8>

God Came Near – Max Lucado – <http://bit.ly/3XlqqZg>

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KNOW:

- When have you experienced the greatest growth in your life with God? What happened?
- What is something you waited a long time to do, such as leave home, get married, have a baby, or get your dream job? What was your greatest expectation for that event? How did the event live up to your expectation?
- What is one of your favorite memories from growing up? Why?
- What are you looking forward to most this Christmas? Why?
- How is this Christmas unique or different than other years? Why?
- In what ways are you reflecting on Christ's birth during this Advent season? What are you finding helpful as you do this?



GROW:

- Joseph and Mary are fulfilling the requirements of the Jewish law for purification after birth (Leviticus 12:2-4) and dedication of firstborn children (Numbers 18:15-16) at the Temple in Jerusalem. What do you notice about Simeon, a man they encounter there (Luke 2:25-26)?
- What was going to be done for Jesus “according to the custom of the law” (Luke 2:27)?
- What is most striking to you about Simeon’s words of praise to God (Luke 2:29-32) and his words to Joseph and Mary (Luke 2:33-35)? What does this tell us about Jesus?
- Why did Joseph and Mary “marvel” (Luke 2:33) at what Simeon said?
- What tends to distract you from setting your hope fully on the grace brought by Christ? (1 Peter 1:13)
- How can we tell the difference between being led by the Holy Spirit and being led by our own desires?
- Why will Jesus and His message “be spoken against” (Luke 2:34)?
- Why did Simeon, who had been “waiting for the consolation of Israel” (Luke 2:25), make a declaration about Jesus being the salvation to be revealed “to the gentiles” (Luke 2:32)?



SHOW:

- What is one specific thing that God is speaking to you through this study? If you are with a small group, discuss that with one another and pray for one another. If you are studying on your own, write it down and share it with someone.
- If we lived more expectantly of Christ’s return, what would change in how we live our lives?
- Pray that encountering Jesus becomes our greatest longing this holiday season. Praise God for fulfilling all his promises in Jesus.



Sermon Discussion Curriculum – God with You – Luke 2:1-3; 9-12 – December 25, 2022

Additional Resources:

Advent – Derwin Gray – <http://bit.ly/3VCzmxp>

Advent – J.D. Greear – <http://bit.ly/3VmXGU8>

God Came Near – Max Lucado – <http://bit.ly/3XlqqZg>

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KNOW:

- What is one food that you would say you “love”? Why do you love it?
- Figure out 80 miles from your home – how long would it take you to walk that distance?
- How do you think our culture would define love? How is this different than how you think Jesus defines it?
- How is the Christmas story a demonstration of God’s love for you?
- In what ways are you reflecting on Christ’s birth during this Advent season? What are you finding helpful as you do this?



GROW:

- Read 2 Samuel 7:1-17, Isaiah 7:14 and Micah 5:2. What prophecies were fulfilled through Joseph and Mary in Bethlehem?
- Read 2 Corinthians 8:9. What did Jesus give up coming to us as a baby in a manger?
- Who did the angels first announce the birth of Christ to and how is this an example of God's grace? (Hint: research the status of shepherds in society)
- In what ways did Jesus's first visitors point to who Jesus was and what he would do for all mankind?
- The angels brought a message of peace. What kind of peace does Jesus bring on earth? How does this differ from worldly views of peace?
- What was the response of the angels to the good news of great joy, and what was the response of the shepherds?
- What did the shepherds do after they found the baby in the manger and what example does this set for those who find Jesus today?
- Have you ever had an undeniable encounter with God? If so, describe the experience. What made it so evident God was present? How did you respond to Him?



SHOW:

- How did encountering Christ change your identity? How does becoming a Christian change your purpose?
- The shepherds had to arrange for care of their flocks and travel a distance to see Jesus, but they did not delay obeying. Is there anything God is calling me to do that I am delaying rather than obeying?
- In what ways has the gift of Jesus been good news and great joy in my life, and what are some practical ways I can share that gift with others?
- Which of God's promises and/or attributes will I treasure and ponder in my heart today?