

3 WEEKS



The Gift



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SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off:

What's your favorite Christmas decoration to put up each year?

Big Idea:

Jesus is our great High Priest.

Key Scriptures:

Matthew 2:10-11

"When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."

Hebrews 10:10-12

"For God's will was for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time. Under the old covenant, the priest stands and ministers before the altar day after day, offering the same sacrifices again and again, which can never take away sins. But our High Priest offered himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time."

Hebrews 4:14-16

"So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most."

Discussion:

1. Read Hebrews 10:10-12. What does it mean for Jesus to be our High Priest? How does that role influence your relationship with Him?
2. What is holiness? How does knowing about God's holiness influence the way you see God, yourself, and sin?
3. Read Hebrews 4:14-16. Do you view Jesus as a distant Savior or as someone who understands what you're going through? How does that affect your relationship with Him?
4. Share about a time when someone understood what you were going through. How does it feel knowing Christ always understands your struggles and is with you in the midst of them?
5. In what ways have you received Jesus' mercy, and found grace to help you when you need it most?
6. How might you come boldly before God this week?

Wrapping It Up:

Father, You are perfect, flawless, and pure. Thank you that, in spite of our sin, You loved us so much that You sent Jesus to die in our place. Thank You that He is able to understand every difficulty we face in this life. Help us to find mercy and grace in Him, our Great High Priest. In Jesus' name, amen.

Prayer Focus:

Pray for the physical health of all those participating in the Christmas services, and all those who will hear the gospel message; that their lives will be transformed by the love of Christ.

Memory Verse:



"But our High Priest offered himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time."
Hebrews 10:12

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off:

What's the most unusual Christmas gift you've ever received?

Big Idea:

What's the most unusual Christmas gift you've ever received?

Key Scriptures:

Matthew 2:10-11

"When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."

Isaiah 53:3-9, 11 NLT

"He was despised and rejected—a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care. Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all. He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. ... Unjustly condemned, he was led away. No one cared that he died without descendants, that his life was cut short in midstream. But he was struck down for the rebellion of my people. He had done no wrong and had never deceived

anyone. But he was buried like a criminal; he was put in a rich man's grave. ... When he sees all that is accomplished by his anguish, he will be satisfied. And because of his experience, my righteous servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for he will bear all their sins."

Luke 9:22-23

"And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life." Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."

Discussion:

1. Lots of things can cause us to wander from God—stress, lack of rest, desire for approval, etc. What is something that causes you to wander? How so?
2. Read Isaiah 53:3-9,11. What stands out to you from this passage? How does knowing what Jesus did for you influence the way you live?
3. Read Luke 9:22-23. What would it look like for you to deny yourself and take up your cross daily?
4. What are some practical ways you can take up your cross and follow Christ this week?

Wrapping It Up:

Father, thank You for Your Son's sacrifice. Thank You for His willingness to come to earth to pay the price we never could. This Christmas, help us to keep in mind not just His birth, but also His saving work for us all. Give us the strength to pick up our own crosses and follow You daily. In Jesus' name, amen.

Prayer Focus:

Christmas services are next week! Pray now for God to place on your heart those He would have you invite to attend a service with you.

Memory Verse:



"All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all." Isaiah 53:6



"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me." Luke 9:23

*“And because of his
experience, my
righteous servant will
make it possible for
many to be counted
righteous, for he will
bear all their sins.”*

Isaiah 53: 11b

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off:

What's your favorite Christmas tradition?

Big Idea:

Jesus is a King like no other, one that was and is very different than expected.

Key Scriptures:

Matthew 2:10-11

"When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."

1 Timothy 6:15

"For at just the right time, Christ will be revealed from heaven by the blessed and only almighty God, the King of all kings and Lord of all lords."

Discussion:

1. Jesus is a king like no other. What are some things about Jesus' life that were unexpected? What do those things tell you about who He is?
2. We can have three responses to Jesus' kingship: opposition, dismissal, and worship. Have you ever opposed or dismissed Jesus? What led you to eventually worship Him instead?
3. How do you most enjoy worshiping Jesus?

4. What are some ways you can bow down and worship Jesus this Christmas season?
5. How can you share Jesus with your friends and family this Christmas season?

Wrapping It Up:

Make time to worship Jesus this week, and share some ways He's changed your life with your friends and family.

Father, thank You for Your Son. Thank You for the life He lived and the price He paid for all of us. Help us not get carried away by the busyness of this Christmas season and instead give us hearts to worship Him for all He's done. In Jesus' name, amen.

Prayer Focus:

Pray for those who will commit their lives to Jesus this week; that the seeds sown in their lives will fall on fertile soil, take root, and produce an abundant harvest.

Memory Verse:



"When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him." Matthew 2:10

CHRISTMAS

AT

SUNNYBROOK

DEC. 23 & DEC. 24

4:00PM

6:00PM

8:00PM

1:00PM

3:00PM

5:00PM

7:00PM

Tickets are required.

Reserve free tickets at [sunnybrookchurch.org](https://www.sunnybrookchurch.org)

All services will be streamed on
Facebook and at [sunnybrookchurch.org](https://www.sunnybrookchurch.org).

Hope Center



The Hope Center is operating in a drive-through fashion at this time. If you are interested in donating, we appreciate and need your support. Please select from the following list.

- Spam
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Honey
- Flour
- Sugar
- Pancake Mix
- Syrup
- Hamburger Helper
- Kids Cereal
- Ketchup
- Spaghetti
- Pasta Sauce
- Baby Wipes
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Body Wash
- Shampoo
- Conditioner

Top 10 Tips for Leading a Small Group

1. Establish a welcoming, accepting, and safe environment.
 - Take time to prepare.
 - Make sure to give a warm enthusiastic greeting to each person.
 - Verbally communicate the environment that you hope to create.
 - Ephesians 4:1-3
2. On the opening night of your group you need to have some intentional discussions centered around these questions:
 - What is the purpose of our group?
 - What is the vision for our group?
 - What are your expectations?
 - What do you hope to gain from this group experience?
 - What are some things we value as a group?
 - What are some healthy guidelines we need to have in place?Review and sign a group agreement.
3. Be authentic. Spend time sharing your life stories in order to get to know each other on a deeper level.
4. Find a good balance between:
 - Truth and grace/Bible study and life
 - Encouraging and challenging one another
 - Giving and receiving feedback from each other
5. Ask good questions to stimulate good discussion. Use open ended questions and follow up questions.
6. Hang out together, do things socially, eat together and have fun together!
7. Develop a missional lifestyle, find a service project to do together in the community.
8. Raise up new leadership by rotating facilitation of the group.
9. Share the responsibilities in order to increase individual commitment and ownership of the group.
10. Pray for your group and for each other!

Find ways to celebrate what God is doing in your group! Who else could you invite to join you in order that their life may be impacted by what God is doing in your group?

Group Agreement

OUR PURPOSE

To transform our spiritual lives by cultivating our spiritual health in a healthy small group community. In addition, we: _____

OUR VALUES

Group Attendance: To give priority to the group meeting. We will call or email if we will be late or absent.

Safe Environment: To help create a safe place where people can be heard and feel loved. (Please, no quick answers, snap judgments, or simple fixes.)

Respect Differences: To be gentle and gracious to people with different spiritual maturity, personal opinions, temperaments, or imperfections. We are all works in progress.

Confidentiality: To keep anything that is shared strictly confidential and within the group, and to avoid sharing improper information about those outside the group.

Encouragement for Growth: To be not just takers but givers of life. We want to spiritually multiply our life by serving others with our God-given gifts.

Welcome for Newcomers: To keep an open chair and share Jesus' dream of finding a shepherd for every sheep.

Shared Ownership: To remember that every member is a minister and to ensure that each attender will share a small team role or responsibility over time.

Rotating Hosts/Leaders and Homes: To encourage different people to host the group in their homes, and to rotate the responsibility of facilitating each meeting.

OUR EXPECTATIONS

- Refreshments/mealtimes _____
- Childcare _____
- When we will meet (day of week) _____
- Where we will meet (place) _____
- We will begin at (time) _____ and end at _____
- We will do our best to have some or all of us attend a worship service together.
- Our primary worship service time will be _____
- Date of this agreement _____
- Date we will review this agreement again _____
- Who (other than the leader) will review this agreement at the end of this study _____



SUNNYBROOK
community church

5601 Sunnybrook Drive
Sioux City, Iowa 51106
www.sunnybrookchurch.org