



Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

Ready or not, winter is upon us. What are some of the things that bring you joy during our MN winters?

1. Peace. A single word that means so many things to people all around the world but can only be found in one person. What has your search for peace looked like over the years?
2. Read [Colossians 1:15-16](#) and [Philippians 2:6-7](#). How does Jesus' divine identity and his decision to be born as a baby, live with us, and go to the cross for us help you understand the relevance of Christmas?
3. Read [1 John 4:9-10](#) and consider Pastor Tom's statement: "We are the reason for the season!" If we (lost and found people) are the whole point of Christmas, how does that change the way we talk about and celebrate the holiday?
4. To have peace close at hand and not experience it, how tragic! God's gift of eternal life through faith in Jesus alone is available to all but must be accepted and opened to be experienced. ([Romans 5:10-11](#)) How has your experience with this gift shaped your life? Take some time to share your story with your group.
5. If you haven't yet accepted this gift, what's holding you back from accepting it now? Ask your questions, wrestle with the decision honestly and then unwrap the greatest gift to ever be offered! (See how to do this in the message notes under: "How can I find Christmas Peace?"

Day One: [Luke 14](#)

Day Two: [Exodus 8](#)

Day Three: [Philippians 1](#)

Day Four: [Revelation 15](#)

Day Five: [Song of Songs 4](#)

This Personal Guide has been adapted from Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System.

PERSONAL GUIDE



RIVERSIDE CHURCH



MYRC.CHURCH



MESSAGE NOTES

"Falling to Pieces, or Falling Into Peace this Christmas?"

Pastor Tom Lundeen

Isn't it amazing that an event that happened on the other side of the world 2,000 years ago still has such a profound _____ on us today?

In these _____ times, people are looking for something more...

When the world around us seems to be falling to pieces (and perhaps also our _____ lives), we can discover how to experience real peace this Christmas because Christmas is:

1. _____

Jesus didn't _____ as a baby in a manger.

He is the _____ God (note [Colossians 1:15-16](#)).

...He chose to come into our world the same way we all do...by being _____ into it.

Why did Jesus come as a _____?

He came to save us and not _____ us.

Jesus was in every _____ a human being (note [Philippians 2:6-7](#)).

Because Jesus came to earth and experienced what it means to be _____, He understands you and me.

Christmas is not the celebration for billions of people worldwide of some _____, normal baby.

2. The _____

..._____ cannot teach us that God is loving, forgiving, and has a plan and purpose for life.

Only _____ can teach us those things.

Being personally _____ to our Creator is how we're going to experience and live that full life.

Note [1 John 3:5](#) and [Philippians 2:6-8](#)

Jesus didn't stay in a _____.

He went to a _____.

Christmas _____ Jesus a lot.

Note [1 John 4:9-10](#)

The truth is, we are the _____ for the season.

3. The _____

We were created to know God, to have a personal, life transforming _____ with Him.

If we miss this, we _____ our entire life.

A wonderful gift _____ is a worthless gift.

Note [Romans 5:10-11](#)

How can I find Christmas peace?

- So how many Christmases are you going to go through before you finally _____ God's gift to you?
 - A. I _____ that Jesus is God, that I have sinned, and need God's forgiveness.
 - B. I _____ that Jesus died in my place for my sin and that I can be forgiven.
 - C. I _____ my life to the leadership of Jesus Christ (*under new management*).
- The *something* _____ that you're looking for is what makes Christmas so special.
- It's placing your life *under new management* and saying '_____' to Jesus as Lord.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital* or hard copy). *[MYRC.LINK/CONNECT](#) or text **riverside** to **94000**



SMALL GROUP
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MESSAGE NOTES

"Falling to Pieces, or Falling Into Peace this Christmas?"

Pastor Tom Lundeen

Isn't it amazing that an event that happened on the other side of the world 2,000 years ago still has such a profound impact on us today? In these uncertain times, people are looking for something more...

When the world around us seems to be falling to pieces (and perhaps also our personal lives), we can discover how to experience real peace this Christmas because Christmas is:

1. Relevant

Jesus didn't start as a baby in a manger.

He is the Creator God (note [Colossians 1:15-16](#)).

...He chose to come into our world the same way we all do...by being born into it.

Why did Jesus come as a baby?

He came to save us and not scare us.

Jesus was in every sense a human being (note [Philippians 2:6-7](#)).

Because Jesus came to earth and experienced what it means to be human, He understands you and me.

Christmas is not the celebration for billions of people worldwide of some average, normal baby.

2. The Reason

...nature cannot teach us that God is loving, forgiving, and has a plan and purpose for life.

Only Jesus can teach us those things.

Being personally connected to our Creator is how we're going to experience and live that full life.

Note [1 John 3:5](#) and [Philippians 2:6-8](#)

Jesus didn't stay in a manger.

He went to a cross.

Christmas cost Jesus a lot.

Note [1 John 4:9-10](#)

The truth is, we are the reason for the season.

3. The Result

We were created to know God, to have a personal, life transforming relationship with Him.

If we miss this, we waste our entire life.

A wonderful gift unopened is a worthless gift.

Note [Romans 5:10-11](#)

How can I find Christmas peace?

- So how many Christmases are you going to go through before you finally accept God's gift to you?
 - A. I admit that Jesus is God, that I have sinned, and need God's forgiveness.
 - B. I believe that Jesus died in my place for my sin and that I can be forgiven.
 - C. I commit my life to the leadership of Jesus Christ (*under new management*).
- The *something more* that you're looking for is what makes Christmas so special.
- It's placing your life *under new management* and saying 'YES!' to Jesus as Lord.

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