

SCRIPTURE CARD GUIDE FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

"JOSEPH, MARY, AND WISE MEN - PREPARING THE WAY AMIDST DANGER" DEC. 25

SERIES OVERVIEW:

After Adam and Eve's fall into sin, they received a promise that the Lord would not leave them in their brokenness. He would provide a Savior. He would prepare the way. Yet how God chooses to work is often surprising. God used people like Moses, Elijah, John the Baptist, and the disciples - who struggled with fear, doubt, anxiety, and depression - to prepare the way for the one who would ultimately come and save his people. In the birth of Jesus, we see God once again bringing about his plan in the most unlikely of ways. As followers of Jesus our broken lives have also been swept up in God's plan of redemption. He has placed us in this specific place and time to prepare the way for Him into the hearts of those around us. Not only will He do this in spite of our brokenness, but perhaps our brokenness is the very thing He will use to shine the power of His glory through us.

Follow the directions below for a guided group discussion with a friend, in a family, small group, etc.

Grab a Scripture Card (printed or electronic) and simply follow steps from 1 to 6 on this page and the next.

1

PRAY

About 1 minute

Open in prayer.

2

BIG IDEA

A minute to read


Jesus came at a time when King Herod ruled over the land, a king so wicked that he sent soldiers to kill every male child in Bethlehem. Danger surrounded the birth of Jesus. Yet, God's providence led the way, guiding every step for Mary and Joseph. In doing so, God not only fulfilled the prophecy of Jesus coming out of Egypt in Hosea, but he revealed his divine power over all the powers of this world, bringing about his plan of redemption despite the danger. God is working his plan of redemption still today, and no danger or threat could ever stop it.

3

CONNECT

About 10 minutes

Share a story of how you have seen God's mighty hand at work in your life. Why is it important to remind ourselves of what God has done?



December 25, 2023

¹⁴ That night Joseph left for Egypt with the child and Mary, his mother, ¹⁵ and they stayed there until Herod's death. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: "I called my Son out of Egypt." - Matthew 2:14-15

Reflect
Read the full passage in your Bible - Matthew 2:1-23.

What is something that is grabbing your attention from the passage and why?

Notice the state of the world that Jesus was born into...danger and heartbreak and uncertainty, much like our world.

In the midst of all of this, God revealed his divine power over all powers. What does that say about God's power at work in our world today?

4

DISCIPLE LIFE DISCUSSION

About 45-50 minutes. Read the Scripture above and discuss the questions there. Additional questions below.

Despite all of the world powers stacked against Jesus, no worldly power can stand against the power of God. What situations in today's world cause you concern, yet are out of your control?

What do you know about God's character and who He is that helps you put your trust in Him with each of these concerns?



DISCUSSION HELP:

Use follow-up questions to take the discussion deeper. Guide answers to be honest and real.

Can you say more about that?

How have you seen that play out in your life?

What does that stir up in you?

Has anyone else had a similar thought or experience?

What might God be inviting you to do?

5 PRAY:

About 15 minutes

Read the prayer prompts and allow for a time of reflection.

Pair up. Share prayer requests with your partner based on the prayer prompts below. Pray now for your partner and the prayer requests shared.

THE [DISCIPLE] LIFE

Pray

Talk to God about your concerns and fears as you live in a world that's full of danger, heartbreak, and uncertainty.

Invite God to strengthen your faith today, to pray with greater confidence because of Christ's divine power over all powers and authorities.

(Read Ephesians 1:19-23)

Thank God that he is working his plan of redemption still today, and no danger or threat could ever stop it.

Live It Out

Every day this week, pray for the fulfillment of God's plan of redemption. Then invite God to fulfill his plans and purposes through you. Keep your eyes on Jesus and open for opportunities.

**Jesus, thank you for inviting me
into this LIFE of following you today!**

6**LIVE IT OUT:**

About 2 minutes

Read the "Live It Out" section and invite the group to take the steps noted.