



The Story of Christmas in Four Phrases

Icebreaker: Share your favorite Christmas memory with your group.

God with us.

Read Together: Matthew 1:23 (NIV), Isaiah 7:14 (NIV)

Discuss:

- Many of the decorations we see around Christmas are empty, just for decoration. What parts of your life feel empty or for decorative purposes only?
- Jesus came to the Earth HE created and became like us, so that He could be with us. What does that truth do to your heart?

God for us.

Read Together: Luke 19:10 (ESV), Titus 2:14 (NIV), John 3:16-17 (ESV), John 10:18 (NIV)

Discuss:

- God wanted you in His family! Did you have a good family experience while growing up? If you did, how does that make you see God and His desire to have you in His family? If you didn't have a good experience growing up, what does God's desire to have you in His family strike you? Do you feel fear or joy? Are there other emotions you can describe regarding your reaction to God wanting YOU in HIS family?
- Jesus didn't have to be forced to come and give His life for you. He CHOSE to give His life. How do you respond to that choice He made?

God in us.

Read Together: 2 Corinthians 1:22 (NIV), Colossians 1:27 (NIV), 1 Corinthians 6:19 (NIV)

Discuss:

- Unpack this statement together, "God became us, so that He could be IN us."
- What does Jesus being IN us, give us?
- Give a few descriptive words of what each of these concepts mean to you:
 - Hope
 - Closer than a friend
 - Closer than a brother
 - A Faithful Friend.

Us with God.

Read Together: Revelation 21:1-4 (ESV), Revelation 22:20 (ESV), Isaiah 7:14 (NIV)

Discuss:

- Try to describe how these truths affect you.
 - There will be a moment in time when God says, “death, that is your last victim.”
 - There will be a moment when tears will be wiped away!
- Think back to the story that Jason told about Mischa in the orphanage. He put two babies in the manger because Jesus had invited Him in. He invites you too.

Pray:

Take some time to respond to God. He wants to be with you. What is your response?

God is FOR you. What is your response?

God wants to be IN you. What is your response?

We get to be with God. What is your response?

Journal your responses or take a walk and tell God your responses.