

If you missed class on November 19, find a family member or adult friend to work through this guide together. This is due before the next class (Dec. 17).

### **Ice Breaker** (4-5 minutes)

1. What is your favorite Bible story about Jesus? Why?
2. Debate! Which is better: Thanksgiving, Christmas, or Easter? Why?

### **Faith Foundations** (10-15 minutes)

The birth of Jesus is the beginning of the entire story and life of Jesus. So, let's get familiar with each major character in the story.

Use Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 1:5-56 to answer the following questions. You may need to bounce back and forth to collect all the details.

- *Who is Mary?*
- *Who is Joseph? How would you feel if you were in Joseph's place?*
- *Who is Gabriel?*
- *Who is Elizabeth?*
- *What does it mean to be 'pledged'?*
- *Why was Jesus born? (The meaning of his name.)*
- *What is the meaning and significance of "Immanuel"?*

### **Digging Deeper** (10-15 minutes)

Jesus' death and resurrection are central to our Christian faith. Both have a profound impact on our life each day. Use the seven last things Jesus said from the cross to reflect on and understand what Jesus did for you.

Read through the following passages and write your answers to the questions listed.

1. **Luke 23:32-34**
  - a. Write out Jesus' words:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What did his death accomplish for us?

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2. **Luke 23:35-43**

- a. Write out Jesus' words:
  
  
- b. How are Jesus' words a comfort to the second criminal and to you?

3. **John 19:25-27**

- a. Write out Jesus' words:
  
  
- b. Who does Jesus think of instead of himself? What does that mean for you?

4. **Mark 15:33-35**

- a. Write out Jesus' words:
  
  
- b. Why does he say this?

5. **John 19:28**

- a. Write out Jesus' words:
  
  
- b. What does it mean for us that Scripture was fulfilled?

6. **John 19:30**

- a. Write out Jesus' words:
  
  
- b. What does it mean for us that "it is finished"?

7. **Luke 23:44-46**

- a. Write out Jesus' words:
  
  
- b. Why did Jesus willingly give up his life for you?

**Life Application** (8-10 minutes)

1. **Why did Jesus die on the cross and rise again?** (Ephesians 2:4-5, John 3:16-17, Matthew 6:26)
2. **What assurances do you have that Jesus really was born, died, and rose and that the promise of eternal life is true?** (1 Corinthians 15:3-8, John 20:10-31, Luke 24:13-32)
3. **What is your favorite part about the Easter story? Why?**

**Family Focus (THIS MONTH'S HOME ACTIVITY!)**

Our focus this month was on the life of Jesus, especially the core parts that we celebrate each year in church like Christmas and Easter. For many families, the month of December means preparing for Christmas with shopping, baking, decorating, entertaining, and attending special events.

The problem is that the real meaning of Christmas often gets lost in the busyness of the season: that God himself was born as a human to show his love to us and save us.

**Your Assignment:**

1. **Show the love of Jesus to someone by doing one thing that helps, encourages, or shows care for another person who might be lonely during Christmas.**

Options:

- Take a plate of baked goods to an elderly neighbor
- Send a card of gift to someone in the military or who recently lost a loved one
- Visit a nursing home and share treats with the residents (talk to Pastor Daniel if you want to do this)
- Find another way of doing a "random act of kindness" that is similar to the things above

2. **Next, write a 4-paragraph paper describing the following things (one paragraph for each).**

- A. What you did. (Be specific and share why you chose to do that activity.)
- B. The reaction of the person/people on the receiving end of your act of kindness. (If you didn't get a reaction, describe what you think their reaction was.)
- C. How you felt about the activity before, during, and after.
- D. How this reminds you of the true meaning of Christmas.

Email your paper to Anna: [dceanna@redeemermqt.org](mailto:dceanna@redeemermqt.org)

Email Pastor Daniel with any questions about this assignment: [dondov@redeemermqt.org](mailto:dondov@redeemermqt.org)