



Christmas  
at Eastern Hills

## Christmas Eve | 12.23-24.2021

**Grow Deep Conversation Questions:** Use these questions to help you process the message in your personal time of study or with your group. Time suggestions are based on a 90-minute group gathering.

**Series Recap:** The Christmas story is full of wonder and magical memories of a night two thousand years ago that changed everything. It would be easy to assume the men and women outlined in Jesus' lineage were all faithful and nearly perfect, but what we find instead is a long line of imperfect people that God used to get the world ready for the moment His Son would come into the world.

### » Opening (3 minutes)

- Introductions - This is especially important if this is your first meeting and if there are new members.
- Housekeeping - Clarify expectations:
  - Remind your group that this is a confidential meeting.
  - **Remember, there may be many thoughts and views. Please remain kind and respectful during conversations.**
- Pray - Open your time together in prayer.

### » Introduction (12 minutes)

- Ice-Breaker: What do you most look forward to each Christmas?
- Digging Deeper: What are some of the headlines from this past year that have been used to incite fear?

### » Observation | Read Luke 1:26-35; Matthew 1:19-25; Titus 3:3-5a (12 minutes)

- What are your initial reactions to these passages? What do you find challenging? Are you encouraged by any of these verses? Why?

### » Key Principle | **When we panic with fear, God pursues with love.** (12 minutes)

- Describe a time when someone was pursuing you out of love, or a time you were pursuing someone else. How did it make you feel?

### » **We panic because we assume we deserve God's approval of our plans.** (12 minutes)

Reread Luke 1:26-35

- What differences do you notice between the way Mary responded to God's plan and how you have responded to God's plan?

### » **We panic because we assume how we look is more important than how we are.** (12 minutes)

Reread Matthew 1:19-25

- What are the things in your life that distract you into believing that your image matters more than the condition of your heart? What can you do to avoid those distractions to focus more on your relationship with Jesus and less on meeting others' perceived expectations?

### » **We panic because we assume we will live forever.** (12 minutes)

Reread Titus 3:3-5a

- What kind of assurances does Paul promise in this passage? How can you apply these words to your current situation?

### » Next Steps and Prayer | (15 minutes)

- Jesus' birth brought renewed hope, joy, peace, and love to a dark and broken world - then and now. Close by praying that you would not only experience and renewed sense of hope, joy, peace, and love, but that you would also have opportunities to share them with others.