



CHRISTMAS

in
THE KINGDOM

Week One | Forever > For Now | 12.03-04.2022

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

Message Recap: Christmas feels crowded. There is a better vision for Christmas in the Kingdom of Heaven. When we recast our picture of this season towards a picture of what God originally envisioned, the pressure is released, and the hope increases. Let's explore Christmas in the Kingdom, the hope, joy, peace, and love that Jesus died to provide. Before the resurrection was the incarnation; He came to earth so that we could experience Heaven this Christmas and every Christmas for eternity.

» Opening

(3 minutes)

- Introductions - This is especially important if this is your first meeting or 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 is one thing you wait all year to be able to do that you can only do during Christmas?
- Digging Deeper: Anticipating hope is important. What are some practical ways you can do this throughout the year?

» Observation | Read Psalm 130:5; Mark 1:1-3

(15 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 | Forever > For Now

(15 minutes)

- What are lies that we tell ourselves to avoid waiting for what is best and justify our actions?
- How do our hurts in this life compare to the hope we have in Jesus? If it were a competition, which would be winning?

» The Waiting Game | Reread Psalm 130:5; Genesis 12:1-3; Isaiah 40:28-31; Micah 5:2-4; Romans 8:18-25

(15 minutes)

- How do the above passages point to a single plan of God that is fulfilled in Jesus? How does this give us hope?
- What does it look like to wait on the Lord in 2022? How does God renew our strength even in our modern world?
- Can we take comfort that our current sufferings will not compare to the blessings to come? Why or why not?

» The Preparation of Salvation | Reread Mark 1:1-3; Matthew 1:1-17, 3:1-3; Genesis 49:10;

(15 minutes)

Romans 8:28-39; Revelation 22:12-17

- Is it obvious that God had a plan for our salvation at the beginning, even in Genesis? Why or why not?
- How are believers today similar to John the Baptist? In what similar ways does the world still need to hear his message?
- What do we have to lose as believers, according to Romans 8? How could Revelation 22 increase our desire for salvation?

» Next Steps and Prayer |

(15 minutes)

- What is the preparation that God most often uses in your life as you prepare to celebrate Christmas?
- Close by praying for one another to release some of the expectations that crowd the Christmas season and set aside time with Jesus.