



# CHRISTMAS

at

## EASTERN HILLS

Christmas Eve | Rescue > Repair | 12.23-24.2022

**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:** Thousands of years ago, the most important phase in the rescue plan of our creator was initiated in a little town in the Middle East. Jesus was born to an unmarried couple and faced unparalleled challenges on the path of our rescue. **Christmas represents an important reminder that Jesus didn't simply come to repair broken people but to rescue broken people beyond repair.**

### » Opening

(3 minutes)

- Introductions - 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 something you own that is special to you and could never be replaced?
- Digging Deeper: Describe what makes that item so precious.

### » Observation | Read Luke 2:1-7; Galatians 2:20-21

(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 | What happens when something is broken beyond repair?

(12 minutes)

- Is it easier to get over something physically broken or relationally broken? Why?
- Which is more likely to happen: learning from our loss and moving on or clinging in unhealthy ways to what is gone? Why?

### » What is Your Story? | Reread Romans 3:23, 5:1-6; 1 Timothy 1:15-17; Revelation 3:17

(12 minutes)

- What emotions do we associate with the words sinner, weak and ungodly? Do they point to our need for salvation?
- Do we allow our spiritual neediness to open ourselves to the Spirit? Does that strengthen us in our sufferings?

### » What is Your Toolkit? | Reread Galatians 2:20,21; Ephesians 3:14-21; Isaiah 57:15; Revelation 3:18-20

(12 minutes)

- Do we allow our hearts to be lowly, contrite, and grounded in love? How does that invite the fullness of God into our lives?
- How can we invest our time and talent into the kingdom of God? How does that enforce living by faith instead of by flesh?

### » What is Our Story? | Reread Luke 2:1-7; 1 John 5:6-12; Romans 8:37-39; Revelation 3:21

(12 minutes)

- Does it seem appropriate that there was no place for Jesus when He was born? Do we have a place for Him now?
- Is it unreasonable that a born sinner would become a conqueror in God's plan? Why or why not? Do we live that truth?

### » Next Steps and Prayer |

(15 minutes)

- God's invitation to us is to trust that his love and grace are more than enough - that we don't deserve it and can never earn it - we are made to receive it simply. What is standing in the way of you simply receiving God's love right now?
- Close by praying for one another to believe that there are no lost causes when it comes to God's love and to share this gift with others.