

DECEMBER: THE REASON FOR THE HOLIDAYS

December 14: Giving

Scripture: Matthew 2:10-11, John 3:16, James 1:17

- How does God's gift of Jesus shape the way we think about giving to others?
- The wise men gave gifts to honor Christ. How can our giving at Christmas also be an act of worship?
- What are some ways our culture distorts or distracts from the true meaning of giving at Christmas?
- How can giving be more than just about material gifts?
- How do we balance generosity with wisdom and stewardship during the Christmas season?
- What are some practical ways we can shift the focus from consumerism to Christ-centered giving this Christmas?
- How might God be inviting you to give differently this year- whether through time, service, encouragement, or resources?

December 21: The Real Meaning of Christmas

Scripture: Luke 2:10-11, Matthew 1:21-23, Isaiah 9:6-7, Galatians 4:4-5

- Why is the angel's announcement to shepherds significant? What does this reveal about the heart of God?
- How does the truth of God becoming flesh shape our understanding of Christmas?
- How does Christmas remind us not just of Jesus' birth, but also His mission?
- In what ways do cultural traditions help us focus on Jesus? In what ways can they distract us?
- What's the difference between celebrating Christmas as a holiday and celebrating it as a holy day?
- How does remembering the real meaning of Christmas impact the way we approach family, generosity, and worship during the season?
- What are some practical ways we can keep Christ at the center of our Christmas celebrations?
- How can we share the true meaning of Christmas with those who may not know Christ?

December 28: What Does Following God In The Next Year Look Like?

Scripture: Proverbs 3:5-6, Philippians 3:13-14, Jeremiah 29:11

- When you look back on this past year, where have you seen God at work in your life?
- What has been the biggest spiritual lesson or challenge you've experienced this year?
- What would it look like to trust God with your plans for the new year?
- How can we leave behind past mistakes or regrets as we step into a new season?
- What distractions or habits might keep us from fully following God in the coming year?
How can setting spiritual goals be different from making typical New Year's resolutions?

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- What role does community (friends, family, church) play in helping us stay faithful in the new year?
- What is one area of your life where you sense God calling you to deeper obedience in the next year?
- What new spiritual practices (prayer, fasting, service, generosity, etc.) could you commit to in 2026?
- How can we encourage each other as a group to follow God more closely in the year ahead?