



### Who Needs Christmas: We Do

We reduce Christmas to forgiveness. We can't live up to God's standards, so he sent Jesus to make things right. Maybe your entire experience with God has been: nobody's perfect, but God forgives. That message isn't necessarily incorrect, but it's incomplete. The message of Christmas is bigger and better than that.

### ICEBREAKER QUESTION: Gift Wrap Challenge

*Instructions: Provide gift wrap and rolls of ribbon. Divide the groups into teams of two. Each pair of players stands side by side with the hands closest to each other tied together. Each team must wrap a package using only their untied hands. Additionally, they must tie it with a bow. The winning team is the one that ties the package correctly first.*

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What part of Sunday's message stood out to you? Was there anything you disagreed with or that encouraged you?

*"We need Christmas, because we need a Savior."*

What is one of your favorite Christmas memories? Why is it special to you?

### SCRIPTURE: Matthew 1:18–21; Matthew 1:24; John 10:10; John 4:13–14; Romans 6:12–14, 23

*Context: The events of Christmas would be unbelievable if the story weren't so remarkable. The story began in Genesis with a promise that through one man, the entire world would be blessed. God was moving throughout history to bring the world to the point in time when Jesus would come into the world.*

- Read Matthew 1:18-21. What did Jesus come to save us from? How does this change our lives today in this world that is still affected by sin?
- Read John 10:10. What is this life that Jesus came to give? How can you experience it today as a Christian? How does living in this new life demonstrate to others the hope we find in Jesus?
- Read Romans 6:12-13. What is Paul saying to the Romans about how to handle sin? How can we apply this in our lives today?
- Read Romans 6:13-14. What is Paul saying about what we are to do because we have this new life? What are we freed from? What do these actions look like for us today?
- What would it look like for you to "offer yourself to God"? How would your daily life be different?
- Andy said, "Life that frees us from sin's control--that was the gift of Christmas. Not just forgiveness **for**, but freedom **from** the power of sin." How does this give you hope as a Christian today? How can you pass the reality of God's grace to others in your family, workplace and social settings?
- Does sin currently master you? What can you remind yourself that Jesus has set you free from sin? How can this group support you?

## **MOVING FORWARD**

We need Christmas because Jesus wants us to have life, and have it to the full. He came to save us from slavery to sin. He came to rescue us from the power of sin in us. We need Christmas because we need a savior.

## **LIVE IT OUT**

**Memorize:** Romans 6:23

**Journaling:** Write down some of the ways that sin has been a master in your life. Pray over them one by one and ask for God's forgiveness. If you need to ask a person for forgiveness, do that as well. Cross each one out one by one and leave them in the past.

**Prayer:** Ask God to give you a heart that is a funnel of the grace you have been given.

**Accountability:** Share with the group how you are going to follow up and continue to build a relationship with the individual you brought to Christmas Eve Service.