



Christmas at The Cove

Week 5 - Newborn Discussion Guide

Do you ever think that your friends might not love you quite as much if they knew EVERYTHING about you? It's amazing to think that despite all of our "stuff" God loves us unconditionally. While we can't see Him with our physical eyes, we can learn to see Him with spiritual eyes. When we seek Him, the evidence that He has been *with* us and *for* us all along will become clear. The Bible tells us the story of God's incredible plan for saving the world through the birth of a baby. His great love for us is the reason.

Jump Start

1. Who, in your own life, have you loved unconditionally? How does it feel to love unconditionally?
2. *God says you're valuable.* "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you" Jeremiah 1:5a (ESV). God has known and cared for you since before you were conceived. **Read Matthew 10:29-31, Isaiah 43:1, Psalm 139:13 and Ephesians 2:10.** How do these verses remind us that we weren't created by chance, that we were created for a purpose, and that we are loved by the God who made us?
3. *God knows everything about you and loves you anyway.* **Read Isaiah 53:6 and Romans 8:28.** What is the universal truth in these verses? How do we know we aren't meant to carry the shame of our past?
4. *Unto YOU a Savior is born!* "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." **Read John 3:16 and Luke 2:10-11.** Why was the birth of Christ such "good news?" According to John 3:16, who is the recipient of 'eternal life'?
5. Final Thought: God speaks to us in the way we're best able to hear Him. He can use other believers, His Word, circumstances, and the Holy Spirit to draw us to Himself. Jeremiah

29:13 reminds us that when we seek God with all our hearts, we will find Him. Again, in Jeremiah 33:3, we are told, “Call to me, and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.” God will sometimes give us signs to reveal Himself and His will to us. When we truly seek God, He will honor our desire to know Him.

When has God shown up for you in ways that you know weren't a coincidence? How do these stories strengthen your faith, and how can you use them to strengthen the faith of others?

Deeper

Read: Ephesians 2:4-5, 8-9.

Grace was born when God reached out His hand of compassion to us, His children, while we were bogged down in the quicksand of sin or “dead in the trespasses and sins in which [we] once walked” Ephesians 2:1-2b (ESV). Salvation is a gift. Jesus is a gift. When we reach up and take God's hand—when we accept this gift of Grace—we become alive in Him.

- Have you ever tried to earn grace instead of receiving it as a gift?
- Why is it so hard for us to let go of the idea of “doing good things” to earn our place in Heaven?