



Christmas at The Cove

Part 1 - Growing in Faith

Discussion Guide

The Christmas story is filled with miracles: angel appearances, the virgin birth, dreams, visions, and a supernatural star. The Gospels tell us of the many miracles of Jesus. The New Testament Church frequently experienced and reported signs and wonders. Now is a time for us to enter all that God has for us. Let's ask Him to grow our faith and do a new thing in our lives.

Jump Start

1. Share one of your favorite Christmas memories.
2. God wants to take us on a faith journey; He wants to grow our faith. **Read [Hebrews 13:2 and Luke 11:9-10](#)**. How literally do you take these passages? Would you say you've experienced a miracle or hosted an angel? Would you say you believe in miracles? Would you say that you're open to miracles?
3. Part of growing in faith is walking by faith, especially as God is bringing about an answer to prayer. **Read [Mark 11:24 and Matthew 9:28](#)**. How easy is it to believe God for a miracle in someone else's life? Is it harder to believe for a miracle in your own life and your family's lives? Why or why not?
4. Jesus didn't always heal in the same manner. It also wasn't always instantaneous. **Read [Mark 8:22-25](#)**. Are you encouraged to know that God may do things in a way you don't expect, in a way that is progressive, or possibly "progressively revealed"? **Read [Isaiah 43:19](#)**.
5. Final Thought: We need to be careful not to equate trouble and sickness with sin, or an opportunity to pass judgement on someone's faith. However, in our own lives, we must be careful to stay in the center of God's will. **Read this story from [John, chapter 5](#)**. What things should you (personally) be doing to walk in God's will and plan? What things is He urging you to put away in order to receive the abundant life He has in store for you?

Deeper

The biggest errors in our theologies about faith, healing, and sin come into play when we begin to compare and judge. Have you ever seen someone with trouble upon trouble and decided they just were not walking with God? Have you ever assumed you were “blessed” because you were good? Let’s look at some controversial scriptures. Dig deeper with commentaries and other versions for a more comprehensive view of evil, healing, faith, and consequences.

6. Our theology is based on what? **Read [Psalm 36:7](#), [Psalm 86:5](#) and [Psalm 136:26](#)**. More personally, what is the basis for your own faith? **Read [John 3:16](#)**.

7. From Old to New Testament, there are scriptures about healing. Make notes for yourself and apply them to your life and situation.
 - a. [Exodus 15:26](#)
 - b. [Psalm 147:3](#)
 - c. [Isaiah 38:16](#)
 - d. [Isaiah 53:5](#)
 - e. [Matthew 10:1](#)
 - f. [James 5:13-14](#)
 - g. [1 Peter 2:24](#)

8. There are also several instances where sin is definitely connected to our struggles and sickness. We have to individually wrestle with our situation and see if sin is a cause of what we are facing. Or a reason we continue to deal with this particular issues. (Note, we are definitely not to try to figure out if sin is a part of anyone else’s circumstance!)
 - a. [2 Chronicles 7:14](#)
 - b. [Psalm 103:2-4](#)
 - c. [Proverbs 4:20-22](#)
 - d. [Isaiah 19:22](#)
 - e. [Isaiah 58:6-8](#)
 - f. [John 9:3](#)
 - g. [Matthew 9:2-6](#)
 - h. [James 5:15-16](#)