



Christmas at The Cove

WEEK ONE: YOU'RE INVITED – Study Guide

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Christmas is a special time of year. It's a time when family and friends everywhere gather to celebrate. Sometimes people will even allow relationship walls to come down during this time of year and let us into their lives, if only during this season. What an incredible opportunity we have to share God's love to people around us, and during the Christmas season to invite people to celebrate the biggest story of all: God's salvation to people.

Where Am I Today?

- 1) On a scale from 1 to 10, how important are other people to you? As another mental self-check, how important is the Gospel to you?

Into the Bible

- 2) **Read 2 Corinthians 5:6-11.** Living on Earth is temporary. There is eternity that awaits everybody, and no one is exempt from that (verse 10). What motivates us to tell others about the Gospel? What are some things fear does, and are there different types of fear? **Read Proverbs 1:7** to gain a clearer understanding of what the fear of the Lord is.

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- 3) **Read 2 Corinthians 5:12-15.** While fear motivates, Paul says it's not what captivates us. What controls us? Also, what does it mean to no longer live for ourselves?

- 4) **Read Acts 1:1-8** to understand where our power comes from. Continue reading in **2 Corinthians 5:16-21.** What does Jesus tell His disciples will happen when He leaves? What does Paul say we become once we are Jesus-followers?

How Does This Apply?

- 5) Looking back at what we just read in 2 Corinthians, do you live your life as one who knows that you won't live on Earth forever? How does that change your perspective?

- 6) In this chapter, Paul clearly lays out that the mission of the church is to spread the Gospel. Do you see yourself as someone that's been given a mission? In light of the Gospel, would you say that people really matter to you?

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- 7) We discussed in question 4 about how Jesus followers become ambassadors for Christ. If you're a Jesus follower, God used someone to bring you to faith in Him. Now it's your turn. How will you be an ambassador for Him?
- 8) Mike challenged us to be intentional with inviting people to a weekend service. How are you going to be intentional in your invitations this Christmas season?

Digging Deeper: Going Further on Your Own

- 9) Because Jesus died and lives, we also get to die and live. The Bible uses the word ransom when it talks about Jesus dying on our behalf—a price needed to be paid in order for us to be reconciled back to Him. But, it was not just any price. It needed to be a perfect sacrifice. Take a look at several verses here:

Read Psalm 49:7-8. Why did God need to send His son to die?

Read Mark 10:45, 1 Timothy 2:5-6 and 1 Corinthians 6:20.

- 10) Jesus came and died for the entire world, yet He fully knew that not everyone in the world would accept Him as their Savior. Knowing that Jesus died for our sins is not enough. Take a look at the following verses on salvation:

Read John 5:24, John 11:25-27, Hebrews 7:25 and James 4:8.