



#SpxWhoNeedsChristmas Facebook & Twitter @spxsmallgroups and @spxbowie

Katie Skerpon Communications Coordinator & Interim Small Groups Coordinator <u>communications@spxbowie.org</u> Who needs Christmas? Seriously, who needs it? Well, as it turns out, maybe we all do. In this series, we'll discover just how important the Christmas story really is — for all of us.

> Week 1: December 2 The entire world needs Christmas.

Week 2: December 9 You need Christmas to find freedom from sin.

Week 3: December 16 God needed Christmas to demonstrate His love.

Series Prayer

God, we come to you today in need. We need you in ways that only you truly know. During this season of Advent, Help us to come to know you in new and exciting ways. You are Emmanuel, God with us. As we go about all the various tasks and events of this season, help us to keep you front and center throughout it all. Be with us as we continue to draw closer to you and each other. Thank you for your gift of yourself. Help us to make ourselves gifts to each other by our presence and attention during this meeting. Amen.

Week 1: December 2 The entire world needs Christmas.



KEY SCRIPTURE

"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing" (Genesis 12:2 NIV).

"But when the set time had fully come . . ." (Galatians 4:4 NIV).

"Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you . . . You have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." (Luke 1:28b, 30b-33 NIV).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What are you looking forward to the most heading into this Christmas season?

What's the thing you find most remarkable about the Christmas story?

Why do you think a period of God's silence is recorded in the Bible?

Are there any situations in your life right now where God feels silent or distant?

What would you tell someone who feels like God is silent in their life right now?

What's one way you can remind yourself that God is working, even when He feels silent in your world?

Week 2: December 9 You need Christmas to find freedom from sin.



KEY SCRIPTURE

"Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:20-21 NIV).

For sin shall no longer be your master . . . (Romans 6:14a NIV)

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23 NIV).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What's your favorite Christmas memory and why is it important to you?

Christmas is the beginning of God's plan to save us from our sin. When it comes to sin, why is it easier to see God as our source of guilt instead of our source of help?

What does it look like when someone sees sin as their master?

The wages of sin is death. What's one way you've seen sin kill?

Every single person on the planet sins. What's one area where you could use God's help getting free?

How can we help each other find freedom from the sin we're facing?

Week 3: December 16 God needed Christmas to demonstrate His love.



KEY SCRIPTURE

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship" (Galatians 4:4-5 NIV).

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8 NIV).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Who will you spend the most time with during Christmas?

God didn't just want people to behave—He wanted people to know Him. Why do we tend to think that God cares more about our behavior than anything else?

What makes it difficult for many people to believe that God loves them?

Why do you think Jesus demonstrated His love instead of just telling us about it?

When are you most likely to feel like God doesn't love you? How can it be helpful in those moments to remember that Jesus demonstrated His love?

What's one way you can demonstrate your gratitude for God's love this week?