**Life Group Study Guide: Loved what you heard on Sunday? Want to go deeper? The life group study guide will help you unpack what you heard on Sunday, while diving deeper into God's word.**

**CONNECT:**

* How do you feel heading into the Christmas Season? Is this a positive or negative season for you?
* Do you find it difficult to believe in the details of the Christmas story? Why or why not?

**Digging Deeper:**

*The Christmas story didn’t begin with shepherds watching over their flocks, wise men following a star, and a young couple that couldn’t find a place to have their baby. It began much earlier than that, and it was more epic than anyone could have imagined.*

Read Genesis 12:1-3

* If you were Abraham, what would you do if you were in his shoes? Would you stay in the place you were comfortable, or would you step out in faith to follow a God you did not know?
* What did God actually promise to Abraham if he did obey God?

Read Hebrews 11:8-10

* What does Hebrews tell us motivated Abraham to trust in God even though the promise God made seemed unbelievable, impossible, and incomprehensible? How might you show the same trust this holiday season?
* In what ways does God’s promise to Abraham change your view of the Christmas Story?

Read Isaiah 49:6 and Malachi 1:11

* What did God promise through these verses? What do these verses tell you about God’s character?
* How are you living proof that God fulfilled this promise?

**MAKING IT PERSONAL:**

*The Christmas story didn’t begin with Joseph and Mary in a manger. It began with God making an unbelievable, impossible, incomprehensible promise to a man named Abraham. That promise carried through the entire history of ancient Israel and beyond.*

* How do you find yourself personally relating to the passages you read in this study?
* What is one take away, insight, or action step that you will take as a result of this study?
* Where in your life are you currently facing an impossible circumstance? How might the Christmas story give you hope in this circumstance?

180-Day Guided Tour of the Bible

**Reading Plan for Week of December 3rd**

Day 41: 2 Samuel 6: King of Passion

Day 42: 1 Chronicles 17: God’s House

Day 43: Psalm 103: The Goodness of God

Day 44: 2 Samuel 11: Adultery and Murder

Day 45: 2 Samuel 12: Caught in the Act

WHO NEEDS CHRISTMAS?

“THE WORLD DOES”

Wave Church SD | DEC. 3, 2017

* AT FIRST, THE CHRISTMAS STORY IS UNBELIEVABLE.
* WITH THE BACK STORY, THE CHRISTMAS STORY IS REMARKABLE.

**CHRISTMAS IS THE FULFILLMENT OF AN**

**UNBELIEVABLE, IMPOSSIBLE, INCOMPREHENSIBLE PROMISE!**

**Genesis 12:1-3 (NIV)**

*1The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. 2“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. 3I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”*

**Hebrews 11:8-10 (NIV)**

*8By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. 9By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. 10For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.*

**Isaiah 49:6 (NIV)** *6I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.*

**Malachi 1:11 (NIV)** *11My name will be great among the nations, from where the sun rises to where it sets. In every place incense and pure offerings will be brought to me, because my name will be great among the nations,” says the Lord Almighty.*

**Galatians 4:4 (NIV)** *4But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son…*

**Luke 1:26-33 (NIV)** *26God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, 27to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. 28The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.” 29Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 30But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. 31You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 32He 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, 33and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”*

**WHO NEEDS CHRISTMAS?**

THE WORLD DOES…

* CHRISTMAS REMINDS THE WORLD IN THE MOST REMARKABLE WAY GOD IS ACTIVE.
* CHRISTMAS REMINDS THE WORLD GOD IS INTERESTED. EVEN WHEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES ARGUE TO THE CONTRARY, GOD CAN BE TRUSTED.