

TALK IT OVER

The Greatest News About Christmas

Buddy Owens

December 26-27, 2020

Open your group in prayer, and remember that this is only a guide. Feel free to discuss each of the provided questions in the message notes, or simply dive deeper into just one. Before you close with prayer, take a few minutes to look over the Three Essential Questions towards the end of the document.

ONLY BEGOTTEN

1. “ONLY BEGOTTEN” MEANS THE ONLY ONE OF ITS KIND.

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“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life.” John 3:16 (NKJV)

“Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through Him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through Him and for Him. He existed before anything else, and He holds all creation together.” Colossians 1:15-17 (NLT)

Question 1

Why do you think it was important for God to send his only begotten Son rather than an angel, an ancient prophet or someone else?

2. God sent his only BEGOTTEN Son to become the INCARNATE Son, so that we might become ADOPTED sons and daughters of God.

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“God sent [his Son] to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, ‘Abba, Father.’” Galatians 4:5-6 (NLT)

Question 2

What is the difference between being created by God and being adopted by God? How do we become an adopted child of God?

SAVIOR

3. Jesus saves us from PUNISHMENT AFTER DEATH.

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"Since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation." Romans 5:9 (NLT)

Question 3

Why do you think we need a savior to be made right in God's sight?

4. Jesus relieves us from THE BROKENNESS OF LIFE.

Talk It Over

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Acts 2:21 (NIV)

Question 4

Christ saves us from punishment after death, but what does he save us from during our life? Share some ways you are building your relationship with Christ to relieve the brokenness of life.

LORD

5. *"For he, who had always been God by nature, (**DIVINITY**) did not cling to his prerogatives as God's equal, (WOW! God's equal—not subordinate, but equal!) but stripped himself of all privilege by consenting to be a slave by nature and being born as mortal man (**INCARNATION**). And, having become man, he humbled himself by living a life of utter obedience (**HUMILIATION**), even to the extent of dying, and the death he died was the death of a common criminal (**SUFFERING**). That is why God has now lifted him so high, and has given him the name beyond all names (**EXALTATION**), so that at the name of Jesus 'every knee shall bow,' whether in Heaven or earth or under the earth. And that is why, in the end, 'every tongue shall confess' that Jesus Christ is the Lord (**LORDSHIP**), to the glory of God the Father." Philippians 2:6-11*

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"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." Matthew 28:18 (NIV)

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:8 (NIV)

Question 5

The title "Lord" is often misunderstood. It means supreme authority or in charge. How comforting is it to know Jesus is in control with supreme authority? How do you accept Jesus as your Lord?

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"Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun?"
2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)

Question 6

What is the most important characteristic of your new life that is not visible to others? What could you change to make this more visible?

Three Essential Questions

The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they felt and what they, or the group, can do as a result of hearing the message!

1. **What did you hear?** *What point in this message was most impactful for you?*
2. **What do you think?** *How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?*
3. **What will you do?** *How will you or your group put into practice what you've learned today?*

Small Group Actions Steps

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