

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step. If you're leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group.

- What's one of the greatest Christmas gifts you've ever given to another person?

With your Bible or YouVersion, read Matthew 1:18-25.

This passage describes the birth of Jesus and explains the meaning of Jesus' name, which is God with us.

- What do think causes you to sometimes feel distant from God?
- In what ways have you experienced God being with you?

Read Luke 1:28, Genesis 39:21, and Romans 8:35-39.

These verses show us that God is with you, God was with you, and that God will always be with you.

- How do you need God's presence to help you in enduring whatever difficult circumstances you are currently facing?
- What are some of the unique ways that you best connect to God?
- Describe a difficult situation you successfully endured thanks largely to God's presence in your life?
- Do you find it easier or harder to experience God during the Christmas season? Explain.
- What steps do you need to take to experience more of God?
- What things in your life are you anticipating for the future that will require God's presence to guide you?

NEXT STEPS

Here are some specific things you can do this week that will help you experience more of God in your life.

Consider reading Carols: A Christmas Devotional reading plan on YouVersion at <http://www.youversion.com/reading-plans/carols-devotional>. This 25-day reading plan features devotionals based upon the truth found in Christmas Carols both old and new. You can also download a PDF version of the devotional at <http://resources.lifechurch.tv/items/431/carols-25-day-devotional>.

Celebrate the birth of Christ during the Christmas season by downloading the Carols collection at <http://www.lifechurch.tv/carols>. This collection of 12 songs features a mix of both classic carols and brand new Christmas songs. Use these songs as an opportunity to minister to others about the true meaning of Christmas by sharing them with your family and friends.

5-Day Micro Devotional:

- Thank God for continually being with you in both the good and bad times.
- Share with God any difficult circumstances you are facing. Ask Him to be with you and help you endure.
- Ask God to help you experience more of Him.
- Ask God to make His presence known to you during those times that He feels distant to you.
- Pray for those you know that need to experience God in their life. Ask God to make His presence known to them.