



LIFEWAY MEN

BEHOLD

the

SAVIOR

Treasuring the Story
of Christmas

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BIBLE STUDIES**

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HOW TO USE THIS STUDY

GROUP GUIDE

Each week of the study, you'll find a brief group guide with discussion questions and prayer prompts to use if you're studying with a group. Advent is a busy season, but we also know studying together reinforces understanding. Consider gathering with your small group, friends, or other men once a week to check in, whether in person or virtually.

PERSONAL STUDY

This study is meant to be a slow walk through Luke chapters 1 and 2. This may be a very familiar story to you, but we hope this verse-by-verse look will remind you of the importance of the first Advent. Each day, you'll read a few verses from Luke 1–2 along with devotional commentary and answer questions to help you interact with and apply the text. You may also read Scripture from other places in the Bible. This will help you get a full picture of the anticipation felt for the arrival of the Savior. There are four days of Bible study per week, along with one day set aside for more reflective journaling time.

PREPARE HIM ROOM

Because this season features so much hustle and bustle, we wanted to provide you with the opportunity to take a moment to prepare room in your schedule and your heart for Jesus. Each week, you'll have one day set aside to reflect, journal, and pray through what God is teaching you in this season. We hope this helps create margin in your week to truly behold Him.

CHALLENGES FOR THE COMMUNITY

Christmas is a season full of family and friends and fun. We want to extend the invitation to *behold* to those around us. Each week of study includes some suggestions for looking outside of yourself to serve the needs of others. Additionally, we've provided a verse to memorize and reflect on each week. This practice will help you internalize the story of Advent and meditate on it now and throughout the coming year.

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

Advent is a time when Christians around the world consider together the birth of Jesus and the promise that He will come again. The themes of Advent are timeless and have been celebrated for centuries in different ways. If you prefer to follow a more "traditional" Advent schedule, it's helpful to know that Advent begins four Sundays out from Christmas, on the Sunday that falls between November 27 and December 3.

Regardless of when you study, our hope is that you will continue to make room for and behold our Savior all year long.



HERALDS OF CHRIST

Week

1

In Luke 1 and 2, we meet Zechariah and Elizabeth. God interrupts their faithful routine with the best news ever, calling them to obedience and joy as they behold the unexpected.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Welcome the group to the first week of *Behold the Savior*. Provide name tags and distribute Bible study books if participants don't have them yet. Invite each man to introduce himself and share basic get-to-know you information. Encourage discussion with these questions and talking points:

Icebreaker: What is your favorite holiday and why?

Why do you want to be a part of this study and this group?

What do you hope to gain from this focused time in God's Word during the Christmas season?

The title of this study is *Behold the Savior*. What does it mean to behold something? What do you behold most often in your everyday life?

Take the time to read Luke 1–2 together as a group. Invite a few people to say what stuck out most to them.

Pray for your hearts and minds during this season, asking God to help you prepare room for and behold Christ.

Remind your group to complete week 1 in their Bible study books before your next meeting.



FAMILY OF GOD

Week

2

This week, we read of beholding. Zechariah prophesies over his son, John, and Mary prays the Magnificat. Both rejoice at what God has done, that He has allowed them to play a role in His story of saving and redeeming His people. We can rejoice, too, for the part He's given us to play. Though it is different, we can rest assured that it is significant.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Welcome the group to the second week of *Behold the Savior*. Encourage discussion with these questions and talking points:

Icebreaker: What is your favorite part of the Christmas season (e.g., lights, time off, gift buying)?

What does it mean for you to know that the Gospel books are “about the events that have been fulfilled among us” (Luke 1:1)?

Which part or detail of the Christmas narrative stuck out to you this week?

Have you ever experienced a season of waiting? What did that look like for you? How did you know God was still working in the midst of the wait?

How does the truth that God keeps His promises encourage your faith today?

Pray together, thanking God for always keeping His promises. Pray for endurance and hope in seasons of waiting. Praise Him for His faithfulness in every season.

Remind your group to complete week 2 in their Bible study books before your next meeting.

A photograph of a rustic wooden building at night. The building has a dark wooden facade with horizontal planks. Several string lights with small, warm-toned bulbs are strung across the top. Three lanterns hang from the building: one on the left, one in the center, and one on the right. The lanterns have a metal frame and a glass enclosure. The building has large windows with multiple panes. The windows on the left show a reflection of the street and some lights. The windows on the right are dark. In front of the building, there are some evergreen branches and a stone-paved area.

GOOD NEWS FOR ALL

Week

3

This week, we read of Jesus's birth, the most important birth story of all time. Like the shepherds, we are called to come and see and then go and tell the world about the One who has come to save all of us.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Welcome the group to the third week of *Behold the Savior*. Encourage discussion with these questions and talking points:

Icebreaker: What is your favorite Christmas song and why?

How has God shown Himself faithful to you in the past? Share with the group so you can remember together.

On day 2, what were some places you identified where you need God's help? How does realizing we need God's help prepare us for what He's called us to do?

On day 3, we learned about a faith that moves. Where is God asking you to move? How can we support each other as we move forward in faith?

How is God's faithful love reflected in Mary's Magnificat?

Pray together. If you're willing, share some of the thoughts you wrote on day 5 of last week with the group. Allow those thoughts to inform your prayer together.

Remind your group to complete week 3 in their Bible study books before your next meeting.



TREASURING THE SAVIOR

Week

4

In this last week of Advent, we'll read about continued faithfulness and obedience.

As we close the Advent season, we look to the examples of those in this week's passage—Anna, Simeon, Mary and Joseph, and Jesus. They show us what beholding looks like as we go into the rest of our year—serving, loving, and growing in Christlikeness.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Welcome your group to the fourth week of *Behold the Savior*. Encourage discussion with these questions and talking points:

Icebreaker: What is your favorite Christmas tradition from childhood or that you've enjoyed recently as an adult? How did that tradition start?

When did you first hear about Jesus? What do you remember about that time? What is one way you've grown to appreciate Him since that day?

Which of Jesus's titles on page 72 stands out most to you? Why?

What are some ways we can be more intentional during the Christmas season to tell others about Jesus?

Read Luke 2:10-11 together. What did this mean to the shepherds? What does this news mean to us today?

Pray together, praising God for sending His Son to be the Savior of the world. Ask for boldness to share the good news of Christ with those who don't know it.

Remind your group to complete week 4 in their Bible study books.