



Take a deep breath: Christmas is just around the corner! Christmas is the only Christian holiday that is also a major secular holiday. The result is two different celebrations, each observed by billions of people, at the same time, for different reasons. Public festivities for Christmas have begun leaving out any reference to Christ—the reason for Christmas! Background music in stores is moving from “Joy to the World” to “Santa Claus is Coming to Town.” People are more interested in gifts under the tree than making room in their heart for Jesus. Use these questions to help refocus your life on the coming King this Christmas season.

1. During this month millions of presents will be purchased and wrapped. They will be placed under a tree and anticipation will begin to build. Share with your group the best present you have ever received and what made it so special.
2. **Read Luke 1:26-27.** Luke teaches us a lot about Mary’s life in these two verses. We learn where she is from, her marital status, and her family ties. When you read these verses what is so important about all this information? **See also Matthew 1:1-17 and Luke 3:21-37.**
3. Neal shared two lessons we can learn from Mary in our initial introduction to her: 1) be faithful to the Lord, and 2) be open to God’s plan. Take some time in your group to discuss how you can live these out in your daily life. **See also Romans 12:1-2.**
4. The angel Gabriel delivers a four-part message to Mary. The first part is that Mary will become pregnant and give birth to a son. For reference **see Luke 1:31 and John 3:16-17.** Is it tough for you to believe that Mary, as a virgin, became pregnant?
5. The second part of Gabriel’s message to Mary is that her Son will be the Son of the Most High God. **Read Luke 1:32.** Mankind has excelled in making idols to suit his own needs. **Read Isaiah 44:9, Colossians 3:5, and 1 John 5:19.** What idols hinder your worship of God?
6. The third part of Gabriel’s message is that Mary’s Son will sit on the throne of David. **Read 1 Samuel 16:7.** David was the ideal king that Israel longed for again. What about Jesus’s kingship causes you to want to worship Him?
7. The fourth part of Gabriel’s message is that Jesus’s Kingdom will be eternal. **Read Luke 1:33 and Isaiah 9:6.** Jesus is a leader unlike any other leader history has known. What do you long for most about eternity, and who do you want to be there?
8. Close your time in prayer.