

## STUDENT GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### SOCIAL TIME/WORSHIP

Have a game ready and/or go around the circle asking your group members to share any news since your last meeting. Be intentional in helping your group members get to know one another during this time and make it fun.

### CHECK-IN TIME

Talk about what you did last week to complete your action step.

### GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Christmas is almost here! Which means there's a lot for us to look forward to — sometimes impatiently. But you know the saying, "good things come to those who wait"? It's true for Christmases now, but it was true on the very first Christmas as well. You see, the day Jesus came to earth wasn't a sudden surprise. It was the first step in a long-awaited plan. In this 4-week series, we'll hear the Christmas story from the perspective of the prophets in the Old Testament, who foretold and then waited for the good things God had in store. Christmas is a reminder of what the prophets proclaimed: that God has always had a plan, that Jesus completes God's plan, that God's plans bring joy, and that God's plans require sacrifice.

1. What stood out to you about the message?
2. Try to tell the whole Christmas story in 10 seconds or less.
3. What did Mary have to sacrifice to make the very first Christmas happen?
4. Why do you think Mary decided to make the sacrifices she made?
5. Who has made sacrifices for you? What did they sacrifice?
6. Read Hebrews 13:16. Why do you think the sacrifices we make for others please God?
7. Have you ever made a sacrifice for someone else? How did they respond?
8. What are some sacrifices you can make this week for others?

### **ACTION STEP**

Choose one of the following or create your own. Consider finding an accountability partner within your group to walk alongside you this week.

- Connect with someone
- Daily time with God: Determine the type of routine you'd like to have that allows you to spend time learning about what pleases God. Here are some ways to do this:
  - o Download the Emmanuel app and read the One Year New Testament daily.
  - o Download the YouVersion app and find a devotion you can do daily. You can even decide to do one as a group to encourage one another as you do the daily readings.
  - o If you recently placed your faith in Christ and texted SAVED to 65248, read the devotional provided in your starter kit.

### **PRAYER**

Ask your group to share two things

1. Prayer requests for themselves and the people in their lives.
2. Ask also for any reason to praise. It is great to come to God in thanksgiving for all He has done.

Keep note of the burdens in people's lives and notice when God moves in those areas specifically. We believe God will see prayers become praise, and it is an opportunity to increase our faith when we are in the position to bring that to light.