



Life Group Guide

Sunday, December 17, 2017

Speaker: Roy Fruits

COMMUNITY

Sharing our hearts and lives with each other so we become good friends.

HELP! Is it harder for you to offer or accept help?

GIFTS! When do you tend to buy Christmas gifts...last minute or ahead of time? Why?

DISCIPLESHIP

Becoming more like Jesus in our character and skilled at doing life as He did.

Helping others come to Jesus, follow Jesus and lead others to also follow Jesus.

Disciple-Maker's Character

Spirit-filled: living yielded to the Spirit's leading & enabling presence & purpose.

Read Ephesians 5:15-22; Romans 8:1-17,23-27

-What does the Ephesians passage say about living a Spirit-filled life?

-What does the Romans passage say about living under the Spirit's control/guidance?

Disciple-Maker's Life Skills

Praying Effectively: Follow Jesus' pattern for prayer & teaching to persevere

Read Matthew 6:1-15; Luke 11:1-13; Luke 18:1-8

-What does Jesus tell us to pray for in Matt. 6:9-15? Make a list and personalize it.

-Why is persistence so important when praying? What is persistence for? Not for?

Accountability & Prayer Break into smaller groups (men & women)

Creating a safe environment to be vulnerable, honest & accountable to each other.

-Share one thing you would like the group to pray for you this week.

-Pray for each other.

MISSIONAL LIVING

Encouraging each other to serve people inside and outside the walls of Rockpoint.

Living as Fishers of Men: Share who you are praying for where you live, work & play that our Father would bring to personally trust Jesus to save and change their lives.

Rockpoint Missionary: Pray for your Rockpoint missionary.

Sermon Discussion *Use the following application questions from the sermon.*

Do You See What I See? Good News of Great Joy

Read Luke 2:1 - 20

The birth of Jesus was “good news of great joy for all people.” Why? A Savior was born who is “Christ the Lord.” When we choose to embrace Him as the shepherds, Mary and Joseph did, we can overcome our fears, live a life of peace, have a joy that motivates us to share with others and experience meaning and purpose in our daily lives.

Journey to Bethlehem (2:1-7)

- *In light of Micah 5:2, why was it important for Joseph & Mary to travel to Bethlehem?
- *Share how you have seen God ‘in charge’ of some of your ‘journeys’ in life.
- *Have you experienced a time when you were ‘moved’ only to find out later why?
- *What is the significance of the humble surroundings of Jesus’ birth? Apply to your life.

Removal of Fear (2:8-13)

- *Can you identify with the shepherds? If so, why? How are you ‘shepherd-like’?
- *Why did the shepherds respond with fear to the angels? Have you seen an angel?
- *What are some of the things that cause you FEAR? Why does sin cause us to fear?
- *What was the GOOD NEWS the angels brought to the shepherds? Why was it good?

Lasting Peace (2:14)

- *True peace is more than just the absence of conflict...it is the experience of harmony and connection with someone. How has Jesus brought lasting peace into your life?
- *What causes a lack of peace in people’s lives today? Why does this happen?
- *Why is Jesus’ birth so important to lasting peace? His death? His resurrection?
- *Ultimately why is it your response to Jesus that determines if you have lasting peace?

Joy Worth Sharing (2:15-17)

- *Why were the shepherds motivated to go to Bethlehem to see what God told them?
- *When they see Jesus, what was their heart’s response? What would yours have been?
- *Do you have a ‘Jesus sighting’ in your life that is worth telling others? If so, what is it?
- *What keeps you from sharing with people where you live, work and play about Jesus?
- *If someone asked you today, ‘Why are you a Christian?’, what would you say to them?

A Life of Meaning and Purpose (2:18-20)

- *How do you think the shepherds life changed after this encounter with baby Jesus?
- *What is the meaning of your life? What is your life’s purpose? Are you OK with that?
- *What is your life’s ‘real’ purpose as seen by your daily life right now? You OK with that?
- *What does Jesus say is your life’s meaning and purpose? Are you living that now?