



MISSION: CHRISTMAS 2

Family Devotional/Adult & Teen Discussion Guide

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DECEMBER 10, 2017

1. PRIMARY STATEMENT: Did you have a favorite aunt/uncle, or grandparent when you were a kid? Maybe you were the favorite, and got special treatment... or maybe your sibling was! We know God loves all humans, but it's clear in the Bible record that He had a special, chosen people - the nation of Israel. Why? How was that part of the mission of Christmas?

2. BIBLE VERSE

Israel as God's chosen people illustrates how He accomplishes His mission.

Occasionally, God accomplishes things all on His own, but most of the time, He works through people.

Judges 6:12-16 [NLT]

"The angel of the Lord appeared to (Gideon) and said, 'Mighty hero, the Lord is with you... Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!'

'But Lord,' Gideon replied, 'how can I rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest in the whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least in my entire family!' The Lord said to him, 'I will be with you...'"



Q. What's one problem you've noticed in your community / society / workplace / family that needs God's help to fix?



4. PRAYER FOCUS

Q. When you remember the "problem-fixes" that God brought through David, Moses, Gideon and others, what do you think your role might be in making a difference?

3. DISCUSSION

The nation of Israel also illustrates how God produces change through people by first producing it in people.

Genesis 32:28 [NLT]

"Your name will no longer be Jacob,' the man told him. 'From now on you will be called Israel, because you have fought with God and with men and have won.'"

Q. In what area(s) of life do you find yourself wrestling with God the most?

Q. Thinking back to the problem you've noticed in your world, what type of change do you think God may require in you before He works change through you?

Take a few minutes as a family and thank God for including people in His work. Ask the Holy Spirit to produce the needed changes in you so that He can produce change through you.



THE GIFT OF PEACE

Family Devotional/Overflow Kids Discussion Guide

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DECEMBER 10, 2017

1. POWER VERSE: *"May the Lord...always give you his peace no matter what happens."*
2 Thessalonians 3:16

**Watts Up: "God Will Give You Peace Within,
He'll Be With You 'Till The End!"**

2. ACTIVITY:

For this week's devotion, you will need a heavy rock, a plastic cup, and a handful of pebbles. Place the cup in the kitchen sink or bathtub or by a water hose outside.

Ask your kids to try to move the cup by doing the following:

- blowing as hard as they can
- throwing pebbles at it
- pouring water on it

Replace the cup with the rock and ask them to do the same things. Then discuss these questions:

Q. If you were a grasshopper and you were out in a windstorm or a thunderstorm, do you think it would be safer to be on the cup or on the rock?

Q. Which is stronger, the cup or the rock?

3. DISCUSSION:

Read Isaiah 26:3-4 to your kids:

*"You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you,
all whose thoughts are fixed on you!
Trust in the LORD always, for the LORD GOD
is the eternal Rock."*

We are stressed or in the middle of a storm, we can always find peace by trusting in God, who is our rock. He will not be moved by the storm, and as long as we stay connected to him, we won't be, either.



4. PRAYER FOCUS

Pray together, thanking God for providing us peace as we trust in Him. Ask Him to help you fix your thoughts on Him, especially in times of stress.