

# UNEXPECTED

22 Nov - 25 Dec



# Unexpected Love



Matt 22:35-40, Mark 12:28-34, Luke 10:27

Icebreaker: Tell each member of your group to compliment someone else on something. Try to be sincere!

## General

- Nominate between your Lifegroup to read these passages
- What are some noticeable differences between them? Is there anything that surprises you?
- When did God originally set all the laws for Israel?
- Now, WHY did God need to set laws?
- In what ways was Jesus 'tested' with questions? You may have to refer to the context around the passages.

## Deeper

- Are these Great Commandments similar to all the other laws or not? How do they fulfil the others?
- Why are these the most important laws?
- Discuss how someone can love something in all the mentioned capacities: mind, soul, strength, etc.
- What might be the wrong ways to love God?

## Application

- In what ways have you received unexpected answers from God? Such as prayers being answered differently?
- What are some things you may 'love' too much? E.g. with too much strength or mind? How can you address that this week?

## Activity

- Consider a memory verse from any of the passages this week and commit to learning it. Be prepared to be quizzed next week!

# Unexpected Partnership



Matthew 28:16-20

Icebreaker: Share with each other the scariest encounter you've ever had.

## General

- Read all of Chapter 28 and make key observations
- Why were the women afraid?
- How did people back then explain the disappearance of the body?
- What are some ways the modern world explain some evidence that is strongly for Christianity?

## Deeper

- What does Jesus want us to do exactly?
- What do you think it means that 'some doubted'?
- How are disciples made? What step by step process should we/do we follow to approach making disciples?
- What encouragement did Jesus give the disciples? How should we understand what Jesus said?

## Application

- Recall a time when you've been asked to do something you didn't feel like you could. What happened in the end?
- Nominate something you could do in the effort to participate in disciple making this week.

## Activity

- Consider vv18-20 to be a memory verse this week and commit to learning it. Be prepared to be quizzed next week!



# Unexpected Parents



Matt 1:18-25, Luke 1:39-56

Icebreaker: What memories do you have around your own birth? Share with the group.

## General

- Nominate among you to read one passage each.
- Make key observations for each passage
- Describe the roller coaster of emotion that Joseph must have felt from Jesus's conception to His crucifixion.
- Go to Isaiah 7:14 and recount the context of the prophecy of Jesus's birth. Share your thoughts.

## Deeper

- Why do you think Jesus had to come in human form? Do you know any passages that would support your answer?
- What sin do you think is being mentioned in Matthew?
- Who was Elizabeth and how is she important to the Gospel?
- Why do you think Mary sought Elizabeth?
- What seems to be the key themes in Mary's song? What may these say about her?

## Application

- Have you ever been given a gift that you thought was too much? What ended up happening? Do you think people would ever reject a gift that God has given? (...like salvation?)
- What is one practical thing you can do to humble yourself before God this week?

## Activity

- Consider a memory verse from either of the passages this week and commit to learning it. Be prepared to be quizzed next week!

# Unexpected History



Matt 1:1-7, Luke 3:23-38

Icebreaker: To the best of your ability, recount your own genealogy and share any interesting or funny stories that you know.

## General

- Nominate between your Lifegroup to read these passages
- How do you think Jesus lived before he began his ministry?
- Which kings do you recognise? What's their story?
- List any women included. What do you remember of them?

## Deeper

- What are some noticeable differences between them? Explain any thoughts on why.
- Why did the authors include genealogies in the gospels?
- How can a genealogy be used to give someone credit?
- And following that, wouldn't you try list the most amazing people in your own lineage? Why did Matthew include many horrible kings?
- What do you think God may be saying to us through these passages?

## Application

- General reflection: how much of your parents do you see in yourself? Do you think it is a good or bad thing?
- Brainstorm practical ways that someone can be 'Child of God'. Each of you should commit to one of those ways this week.

## Activity

- Consider a memory verse from any passage this week and commit to learning it. Be prepared to be quizzed next week!

# Unexpected Witnesses



Matt 2:1-12, Luke 2:1-21

Icebreaker: Describe a time when someone ask you to do something without telling you why. How did you feel? Did you have 'faith in the messenger'?

## General

- As you begin, see if your group can tell the nativity story among yourselves.
- Nominate members to read the passages and make key notes.
- Are there any differences in the story you recounted? For example, did anyone mention a stable in their version?

## Deeper

- Why was Herod disturbed? And why was Israel disturbed? How did Herod react? What do you think his intentions were?
- Who were the visitors? How important were they? Do you know what their gifts represent? What names have they been called?
- Describe the context of the referenced verse from Micah (v6).
- It was actually the chief priests and teachers of the law who answered Herod. What were the Jewish people expecting from God?
- How do you think the birth of Jesus affected the Jewish nation until now?

## Application

- Describe how your life has changed since you met Jesus.
- Birth of Jesus is the beginning of long awaited 'Good News'. Challenge yourself to share it with someone who isn't very familiar with it.

## Activity

- Consider a memory verse from any passage this week and commit to learning it.
- Don't forget to attend the Christmas services to hear the conclusion to this series!

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