

Leader tip: Bring some holiday cheer with you as you enter into your small group time. Bake some cookies, bring a kettle and some hot chocolate. Make it a jolly time together!

HANGOUT

1. Discuss:
 - What have you done to get ready for Christmas so far? Anything you'd still like to do?
 - At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Our God came into the world as a baby. What does it mean to you that Jesus is God with us?

HEAR

2. Read the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:3-12.
 - What verse or idea stands out to you? Why?
 - For each Beatitude, give an example of the kind of person being identified. Then talk about how the promise of this Beatitude reinforces our sense of security and safety in God.
 - Which group in the Beatitudes do you most/least identify with? Why?
3. Read about letting go of anger and loving enemies in Matthew 5:21-24, 43-48.
 - What verse or idea stands out to you? Why?
 - Why do you think Jesus takes anger so seriously? What is dangerous about anger in your experience? Can you think of other passages in Scripture that warn Jesus followers about anger?
 - What advice would you give a Jesus follower who struggles with anger? How have you dealt with anger in the past?
 - More than anything else, Jesus says loving our enemies makes us most like God. Why is that the case?

HUDDLE

4. Relationships that require enemy love and forgiveness can sometimes rise to the surface around the holidays. What is your experience of that? What is your plan for being God-like this Christmas?
5. After discussing the above, pray for one another.