



Leading People into a Growing  
Relationship with Jesus Christ!

## Life Group Discussion Guide

Message: "Christmas Vacation"

Sermon Series: Christmas at the Movies

Speaker: Pastor John Seitz

Dates: December 15-16, 2018

### Message Notes

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!" Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. **Luke 1:26-29 (NLT)**

Then Simeon blessed them, and he said to Mary, the baby's mother, "This child is destined to cause many in Israel to fall, and many others to rise. He has been sent as a sign from God, but many will oppose him. As a result, the deepest thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your very soul." **Luke 2:34-35 (NLT)**

After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up! Flee to Egypt with the child and his mother," the angel said. "Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." That night Joseph left for Egypt with the child and Mary, his mother, and they stayed there until Herod's death. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: "I called my Son out of Egypt." **Matthew 2:13-15 (NLT)**

One day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's cross to the other side of the lake." So they got into a boat and started out. As they sailed across, Jesus settled down for a nap. But soon a fierce storm came down on the lake. The boat was filling with water, and they were in real danger. The disciples went and woke him up, shouting, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!" When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and the raging waves. Suddenly the storm stopped and all was calm. **Luke 8:22-24 (NLT)**

Then he asked them, "Where is your faith?" The disciples were terrified and amazed. "Who is this man?" they asked each other. "When he gives a command, even the wind and waves obey him!" **Luke 8:25 (NLT)**



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## When Life Gets Stormy

1. Even though Jesus was in the boat, the storm still happened.
2. Even though the storm happened, Jesus was asleep.
3. Even though Jesus was there, the disciples were still afraid.
4. Even though the disciples had little faith, Jesus still saved them.

## How To Guard Your Perspective About Christmas

1. Adjust your expectations.
2. Restrict your Holiday Schedule.
3. Budget your spending.
4. Focus on the needs of someone else.
5. Leave some time for deep reflection.
6. Attend a Christmas Eve service.

Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!" Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!" **Luke 1:28-33 (NLT)**

For the word of God will never fail. Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her. **Luke 1:37-38 (NLT)**

"I am leaving you with a gift – peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid." **John 14:27 (NLT)**



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## Four Questions

LEARN: *What am I learning? What am I curious about? What questions do I have?*

LIVE: *What thoughts/habits/desires do I need to adopt or surrender  
so I can experience the abundant life Jesus gives?*



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LOVE: *How will this empower me to love God (with all my heart, soul, mind and strength),  
love myself (as Jesus loves me), and love my neighbor (as I love myself)?*

LEAD: *How is God calling me to lead people into  
a growing relationship with Jesus Christ?*