

# PART II: A Christmas With Jesus Around The Table



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## **BEGIN IN PRAYER AND WORSHIP.**

Pray asking the Holy Spirit to lead and guide your time together.

## **IMPORTANT**

Let's remember some of the guidelines for an emotionally healthy community to practice today.

- Do not give advise or correct.
- Get out of our comfort zone.
- Be brief when sharing.
- Speak in first person.

## **TALK ABOUT LAST WEEK'S PRACTICE.**

**Let's remember what last week's practice was:** Last week's practice was based on the difficult decisions we have to make to please Jesus. And specifically, making that decision (decisions), or the first step of that decision.

- Raising hand Who did the practice?
- Who would like to share with us how the practice went? It does not have to be in great detail if it is very personal, it can be general.
- For who still is it hard to make that decision and why do you think that is the case?
- How is it going with your daily rhythm of prayer?)

## **READ THIS SUMMARY.**

At Christmas we celebrate and remember the greatest gift for each of us. **The birth of Jesus.** And far from being a date where we consume, spend, get drunk, get into debt, and satisfy our own pleasures, **Christmas is a date to share among family and friends, around the table, remembering Jesus.**

It is the perfect opportunity to remember as a family the greatest gift, **Jesus.**

### **TALK ABOUT SUNDAY'S TEACHING.**

- What caught your attention the most about Sunday's teaching?
- For how many, the idea that Christmas is about Jesus and giving, is a new idea about Christmas?
- Until this Christmas, what did Christmas mean to you?

### **READ THE BIBLE TOGETHER.**

#### **Matthew 2:1-2, 10-11**

- What gets your attention the most about what these wise men are doing?
- If these wise men had gold, frankincense, and myrrh, is because they had money. Why do you think they understood that instead of receiving more of those gifts, they wanted to give them to Jesus?
- Gold, frankincense, and myrrh are very valuable and important things and they gave it because Jesus was more important. They worshiped him with those gifts. In your context and life, what do you think would be the decisions you must make to worship Jesus and show that he is more important than any other person or thing (including yourself), this Christmas season?

### **DO THIS PRACTICE AS A COMMUNITY RIGHT NOW.**

1. **Step One: Write down what you are going to do to remember this weekend that Jesus is the reason for Christmas.**
  - It can be reading the story of the birth of Jesus when you start your Christmas celebration.

- It can be singing some worship songs before starting your Christmas celebration.
- Pick something **creative**, and **simple**.
- Write in this space:

## 2. **Step Two: Write down what your worship sacrifice will be this Christmas.**

- We are learning that Christmas is not about our self-satisfaction, but about Jesus. And that requires making sacrifices, as the wise men did.
- For most, it will mean changing the way we celebrate Christmas.
- Write what your sacrifice will be so that this Christmas is not about you, but about Jesus.
- Some ideas can be:
  - Do not celebrate with alcohol.
  - Don't get into debt.
  - Let the Christmas celebration be about Jesus and not about me.
  - Limit the amount of gifts.
  - Give gifts of presence and meaning and not measured in monetary cost.
  - Inviting someone to my house that I wouldn't normally invite.

- Make a change in life regarding something that I know is not pleasing to Jesus.
- Give instead of receive.
- Write here:

### **3. Pray: Pray for help from the Holy Spirit**

- Probably all your life you have been celebrating Christmas in a very different way than the one Jesus invites us to.
- It's going to be difficult, that's why God sent the Holy Spirit to help us in these moments.  
Let's pray for the Holy Spirit to help us so that the focus of this Christmas is Jesus and not us.

#### **READ THE PRACTICE FOR THIS WEEK.**

This week's practice is easy to understand, hard to do.

It is to carry out the three steps that we have just written. And do last week's practice if you haven't done it yet.

#### **DOES ANYONE HAVE A QUESTION REGARDING THE PRACTICE OR IS IT CLEAR?**

#### **PRACTICE BASED ON TO END**

Does anyone have a request they would like us to pray for?