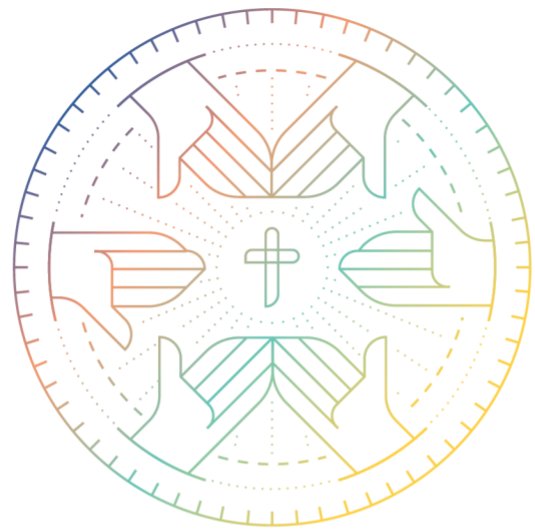


Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

Is there a promise of God to which you are holding tightly? Something that you are trusting God to fulfill in your life?

OR

What's one promise God has kept in your life? Something he has done in fulfillment of his promises?

INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

What most stood out to you from Pastor David's message?

What did you find most encouraging about David's discussion of the "Promised One who always keeps His promises"? Does fulfilled prophecy bolster your confidence in the truth of the Gospel?

INTO THE WORD (20 MINUTES)

Read the prophecies found in: Matt. 1:22-23; Matt. 2:4-6; Matt. 2:14-18; Matt. 4:12-17. These are but a few of the hundreds of fulfilled prophecies concerning the birth of Jesus. They were prominent in the hearts and minds of faithful Jews, and they were longing for them to be fulfilled.

Why do you think there was such great longing in the hearts of the Jewish people?

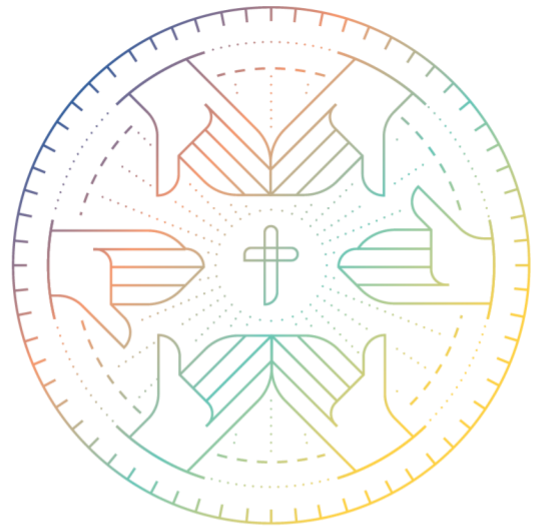
Read 2 Peter 3:8-14. How does this passage speak to our looking for and longing for the Second Coming of Jesus at the end of the age?

What should our longing look like and what should our response be to these promises of Christ's return?

Read Isaiah 7:14. What are some of the practical implications of the virgin birth of Jesus? List as many as you can.

Group Life.

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Read Micah 5:2. Write down or note in your group all the things you notice about this important prophecy.

APPLICATION (20 MINUTES)

David shared the **Eight Promises of Christmas** in his message:

1. Jesus promises as our trusted King to give wisdom and care. **God rules!**
2. Jesus promises to supply all our needs. **God is proud of you!**
3. Jesus promises by his sacrifice to heal all blemishes of sin and shame, there is no condemnation for you or judgment of you. **God doesn't blame you!**
4. Jesus promises to sustain you and satisfy your every want and desire as the "bread of life." **God is for you!**
5. Jesus promises to rescue you from bondage to freedom, and our righteousness to His righteousness. **God sees you!**
6. Jesus promises to restore you now in this life and wipe away every tear, make everything right and sound, and give you life after this life. **God loves you!**
7. Jesus promises to send people to tell us what is right, best, and good and give us the Holy Spirit as a forerunner of eternity. **God holds our future!**
8. Jesus promises His compassion to heal, give strength in pain, motivate us to forgive, walk in love, dissolve anger and bitterness, and move from anxiety to peace and hope in Him. **God cares!**

Which promise most resonates with you today or addresses your need today?

Who do you know that needs to be encouraged by one of these promises? How will you share God's promise with them today or this week?

PRAYER

Our Savior and Lord Jesus, thank you for the gift of fulfilled prophecy. Because of the certainty of your promises, we have hope both during this season and in our lives. We long for the day you will fulfill all your promises yet to come through your Second Coming and we eagerly await that glorious day. Encourage our hearts, today. Calm our fears. Allow our hearts to trust your faithfulness and to hold tightly to your promises. May we encourage others with the encouragement we have received. Amen.