

Northland Christian Church

Group Discussion Guide

Merry Christmas!

Title: Christmas Sweaters

Text: Philippians 2:5-11

Date: December 20, 2020



How to Use This

• *Use the questions in each section below as a springboard for discussion. Do not feel like you have to follow the study guide religiously or hit every question. These questions are designed to help spark discussion. Refer to them as needed.*

Big Idea: We need to put on the love of Jesus.

Connection (*give each person an opportunity to answer one or more of the following*)

- What's your favorite thing about the Christmas season?
- What is your favorite way to celebrate?
- Describe your favorite Christmas sweater? OR:
 - **NOTE: LEADERS IF YOU SEE THIS IN TIME, HAVE YOUR GROUP MEMBERS WEAR THEIR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS SWEATER.**
 - **THEN VOTE TO RANK SWEATERS IN ORDER OF MOST SURPRISING TO LEAST SURPRISING.**

Engage the Scriptures

Read Philippians 2:5-11 with the group.

Discussion Questions

Section 1

- What in this passage sticks out the most to you? Or means the most to you?
- Which part of this passage is most surprising? Most impactful for you? Hardest to understand? Hardest to apply? Why?

Discussion Questions

Section 2

We are billboards for what we love.

- In what ways is this observation true for you? What do you love to talk about and share?

- How might this desire to share what we love give us an advantage in living on mission for Jesus (sharing His story; meaning of Christmas, Easter, Salvation, Disciple-making, etc.)?
- How could this relate to Philippians 2:5 and “having the same attitude of Jesus”?

Section 3

God’s presence was, and IS, THE present of Christmas.

- What are your reactions and thoughts to this phrase? Truly? Is this something you agree with? You celebrate each year? Or does it get lost in the busyness and excitement of the season?
- How could you live this out more in your family during the Christmas season?

Section 4

Jesus was a billboard for what He loved

- In what ways do you see this to be true?
- In what ways is this encouraging? Challenging?
- Keeping in mind this truth, what does this say about how Jesus views us?

Section 5

You need to take off the Christmas sweaters and put on the love of Jesus.

- *How can we put on the love of Jesus? (See Colossians 3:12-17 for more ideas)*
- *What might need to change in our lives, our schedules, our focus of life for this to be true?*

If time Discuss

What changes the hearts of humanity?

It is the love of Jesus that we can bring with us everywhere we go!

- If this is the plan and intention of God’s will for us, what hinders or limits you from putting on Jesus each day instead of putting on self? How could this change going forward?

Apply It - Time in Prayer

Take a couple of minutes to silently pray, asking God to reveal/show you how He wants you to live out this truth this Christmas and beyond?

Take some time to allow for silent prayer, and then **close by praying with and for one another.**