

## Discussion Questions

Read the passage below and discuss it in relation to how we glorify Jesus during the Christmas season.

*<sup>27</sup> "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. <sup>28</sup> Father, glorify your name!"*

*Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." <sup>29</sup> The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him. <sup>30</sup> Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine.*

1. What were your Christmases like growing up? Share the good, the bad and the ugly. Were they more secular or more "religious?"
2. If you raised or are raising your family, share your struggles with celebrating Christmas in a way that was flavored with Christ. Share your triumphs and your failures.

For those who raised their kids, share with the group what you'd do differently, as a way of encouraging them to not make the mistakes you did?

If you haven't started a family yet, share your hopes for future Christmases. What are ways you can be more intentional about celebrating Christmas that is more God-glorifying?

3. Why is greeting people an important custom? It almost comes natural. No one told you to greet people, even strangers, so why do we do it?

What's your thoughts on wishing people a "Merry Christmas?"

This can be a hot topic so make sure you listen to and respect each other's perspective. Feel free to challenge or offer a different views but make sure you leave loving each other and agreeing to disagree without being disagreeable!

4. Share several Christmas traditions that are meaningful to you and why. How do they reflect the true meaning of the season?
5. If you were to list traditions that you think do not reflect the true meaning of Christmas or are a distraction from it, what would they be?

# Seasoning the Season

## Seasoning Our Greeting

---

11/28/21

Is the problem that they really do not reflect the true meaning of Christmas or is it because we have forgotten the spiritual significance of the tradition? How would you spice up that tradition so it does reflect the reason for the season?

6. Have you ever performed a spiritual audit of your Christmas traditions and made some changes so your Christmases had the taste and smell of Jesus?
7. Pastor Richard mentioned that to get the most out of Christmas so it becomes a season of "great joy and peace on earth" you need to season the season with the right seasoning and you have to season it with the right amount of seasoning. You do not want to over season or under season. What do you think he meant by that?

Can you over season Christmas with the flavor of Christ? Do most people over season or under season Christmas with the flavor of Christ?

8. Is there something new you are going to try this year that you haven't tried in the past in order to celebrate the season in a way that is more reflective of it?
9. Is there something as a group you would like to do to be a blessing to others during Advent?
10. Final thoughts.