

*\*This is a discussion guide based upon CRBC sermons. The questions provided below are for Home Group Leaders to utilize in facilitating discussion within their group. Home Group Leaders are encouraged to take these questions, re-arrange them, omit as required, add as required and change as required in order to best create a close Christian family that feels safe and secure to be open about their lives and their Christian walk. Please tailor as necessary based upon your leadership style and group dynamics.*

*Additionally, if there are any questions, comments, critiques, inputs, etc... Please email Michael Griffin at [airforce\\_griffin@yahoo.com](mailto:airforce_griffin@yahoo.com).*

### **ICE BREAKER:**

What has been your family's longest road trip and what did y'all drive it in?

### **SCRIPTURE:**

Luke 2:1-11  
Matthew 6:33  
1 John 2:15  
Romans 12:2  
Philippians 4:10-13

### **QUESTIONS:**

- We romanticize the birth of Jesus Christ through our manger scenes and decorations. How did Pastor Rick describe the realities of the birth of Jesus Christ? Have you ever tried to place yourself in the "shoes" of the people involved in the Christmas story? Think of Joseph when he finds out that his fiancé is pregnant and she claims it is by the "Holy Spirit." How would you have reacted, how about after being confronted by an angel that your wife is carrying the Son of God. What about Mary, the shepherds, the grieving families in Bethlehem who had their own boys executed by Herod...
- When we think about the reality of the birth of Jesus Christ and its circumstances, we start to see and understand the differences between the joy and the happiness that Pastor Rick was talking about. How would you define the differences between joy and happiness and the importance of each?
- Have you ever said, "If I had [insert item here, money, car, bigger house, different family, etc...]; then my life would be easier and I would be happy? What was it and why did you think that? Do you think that dwelling on, "If XXX was different, then this circumstance would be better" robs you of joy, why or why not?
- Read Philippians 4:10-13. Paul describes being content in any and all circumstances. How does this mindset bring joy to life?
- What are your thoughts on this statement, "When we discover and live out God's purpose for our lives; then we will know true joy regardless of our circumstances."

- What daily moments do you find in your life that bring you joy? Paul talks about mindset in Romans 12:2, how does our outlook on life change when we look for things to be joyful about rather than the negative? Does this change the way we live and how people perceive us?