



## INTRODUCTION

## Keep Calm—and reach out

The holidays are coming.

What's supposed to be a season of joy and celebration, often is not. We find ourselves distracted by preparations, overwhelmed by expectations, or depressed by our own circumstances. Let's learn how we can make the holidays enjoyable and meaningful!

We'll discover how to take a biblical approach to the holidays, and explore how we can be present, keep calm, and survive the season.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share briefly how you came to faith in Jesus Christ (as time permits). Where did you first hear the gospel message and how did you respond to it when you first heard it?
2. How might the holidays provide a greater opportunity for us to share our faith with others?
3. Most people hear the gospel through a friend or relative. Why do you think God uses people to communicate such an important message with other people?
4. Read John 1:10-12; John 3:16-18; Ephesians 2:8-9; Acts 4:12 and 1 Corinthians 15:1-6. What observations do you make from these verses concerning the gospel message? Why do you think people might be offended by the idea that faith in Christ is the only answer to the problem of our sinfulness?
5. Read Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 10:14-15 and 2 Corinthians 5:17-21. What do we learn from these verses about our responsibility to share the gospel with others?
6. Why do you think most people don't share their faith? What might help us overcome the obstacles? How can the church help?
7. Have you ever shared your faith with someone else? How did it go? What lessons did you learn from the experience?
8. What can we do to grow more effective in sharing our faith with others?

## APPLICATION

Most people are familiar with the Christmas story. However, a lot of those same people have not taken the step of putting their trust in Christ as their Savior. They know of Christ, and about Him, but they don't know Him. Through faith, we are able to have a truly abundant life, and eternal life. Christmastime offers the perfect opportunity to reach out to others, and let them know about the story of Jesus.

Why should we share our faith and point people towards Jesus though? God works through people to spread the message to their family, coworkers, friends, and loved ones. As Christians, we have a responsibility to introduce others to Jesus. This is why we exist as a church—to know Christ and make Him known to others. When we share our faith with others, we are pointing them to Jesus. Then, once we present the message, Jesus takes over. We aren't responsible for saving anyone—that's Jesus's job. If we do our part, we can trust Him with the results.

## KEY VERSES (HCSB)

John 3:16-18	John 1:10-12
Romans 8:1	Ephesians 2:8-9
John 3:36	1 Corinthians 15:1-6
Acts 4:12	Matthew 28:18-20
John 1:35-51	Romans 10:14-15
1 Peter 3:15-16	2 Corinthians 5:17-21