

ENGAGE

Christmas Extra One

Small Group Session Nine

Week Beginning 1st December



ONE TRUE GIFT

Last week, we finished our reflections in Mark's gospel and concluded the first part of ENGAGE. ENGAGE will continue in the new year when we will begin looking at 1 Peter together, a letter all about how we ENGAGE with the world around us.

We also thought last week about how we might make the most of Christmas, to see the good news of Jesus proclaimed amongst those we know and love.

If you created some plans as a Small Group, do continue to talk together about them and how you are going to put them into action. Christmas is a wonderful opportunity to invite people into our homes, to share our lives and the message of Christmas. Do also continue to pray about those you hope to bring to some of our Christmas events.

This week is the first of two extra sessions that some Small Groups might like to use this Advent. Each 'Christmas Extra' picks up themes from Philippians Chapter 2 as we use the 'One True Gift' resource.

It is not too late to get hold of an electronic copy of 'One True Gift' which includes a daily reflection. <https://bit.ly/4fTirRC>

This first session follows the introductory video from last Sunday and helps us think about what might make us joyful this Christmas. Why not pray together now before you dive into Philippians.

The logo for 'The One True Gift' is a circular emblem with a double-lined border. Inside the circle, the words 'The One True Gift' are written in a teal, serif font, with 'The' on the top line, 'One True' on the middle line, and 'Gift' on the bottom line.

The
One True
Gift

"...then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind."

Philippians 2:2

COMPLETE JOY

Introductory Question: Christmas is said to be a time of 'comfort and joy'. What different things can bring us joy at Christmas?

Now read Philippians 2:1-11

Question: In verses 2-5 Paul challenges and encourages the church in Philippi to think about their life together. List out the different commands and encouragements.

Question: Now think about our church. In what ways do we display this life in our church/small groups? Spend some time thinking about some specific examples.

Question: Now think about our church some more. In what ways might we be able to display this life more and more in our church/small groups? Can you think of specific examples of how we could grow like this?

As you have reflected on our church, I imagine you have thought of lots of things that are encouraging and praiseworthy about our life together. There are many ways in which we have the 'mindset of Christ Jesus' (v.5). I imagine you have also thought of a number of ways we could do better or grow, these verses are also very challenging. Helpfully, our passage doesn't just give us a list of things we need to do better. It also gives us the motivation to live them out. Let's turn to look at those motivations now...

Question: In verse 5 we are told to have the mindset of Jesus. How is Jesus' mindset described in verses 6-11? How does that encourage us as we seek to live like him?

Question: In verses 1-2 we are given even more encouragements to live this way. List each one of them out. Now reflect on each in turn. How might each one encourage us as we seek to have the mindset of Jesus?

Question: We started by thinking about things that bring us joy at Christmas. In verse 2 Paul says the thing that completes his joy is when the church has the mindset of Jesus. How might we know more of this joy in our lives this Christmas?

It is time to bring our thoughts together. Given all we have seen, maybe finally think of one thing to praise God for (in the life of our church or the character of Jesus) and one thing to pray for as we seek to have the mindset of Jesus together.

Share your thoughts and now turn to pray for each other.

BEING
LIKE
MINDED

REASONS
FOR
JOY

DRAWING
TOGETHER





AUTUMN TERM

Small Group Session 1.1

Week beginning 8th September

Small Group Session 1.2

Week beginning 15th September

Prayer Meeting Week

7:30pm 25th (Kea) 26th (Christ Church) September

Small Group Session 1.3

Week beginning 29th September

Small Group Session 2.1

Week beginning 6th October

Small Group Session 2.2

Week beginning 13th October

Trinity Update and Fellowship evening

7:00pm 23rd October

Half Term Break

Week beginning 27th October

Small Group Session 2.3

Week beginning 3rd November

Small Group Session 2.4

Week beginning 10th November

Prayer Meeting Week

7:30pm 20th (Kea) 21st (Christ Church) November

Small Group Session 2.5

Week beginning 24th November

Small Group Session - Christmas Extra 1

Week beginning 1st December

Small Group Session Christmas Extra 2

Week beginning 8th December



SPRING TERM

Small Group Session 3.1

Week beginning 5th January

Small Group Session 3.2

Week beginning 12th January

Prayer Meeting Week

7:30pm 22nd (Kea) 23rd (Christ Church) January

Small Group Session 3.3

Week beginning 26th January

Small Group Session 3.4

Week beginning 02 February

Small Group Session 3.5

Week beginning 9th February

Half Term Break

Week beginning 16th February

Trinity Update and Fellowship evening

7:00pm 26th February

Small Group Session 3.6

Week beginning 2nd March

Small Group Session 3.7

Week beginning 9th March

Prayer Meeting Week

7:30pm 19th (Kea) 20th (Christ Church) March

Small Group Session 3.8

Week beginning 23rd March

Small Group Session 3.9

Week beginning 30th March

Small Group Session - Partnership Perspective

Week beginning 6th April



SUMMER TERM

APCM

7:30pm 30th April

Small Group Session - Word 1:1 4.1

Week beginning 4th May

Small Group Session - Word 1:1 4.2

Week beginning 11th May

Prayer Meeting Week

7:30pm 21st (Kea) 22nd (Christ Church) May

Half Term Break

Week beginning 25th May

Small Group Session - 5.1

Week beginning 1st June

Small Group Session 5.2

Week beginning 8th June

Small Group Session 5.3

Week beginning 15th June

Trinity Update and Fellowship evening

7:00pm 25th June

Small Group Session 6.1

Week beginning 29th June

Small Group Session 6.2

Week beginning 6th July

Small Group - ENGAGE Final Meeting

Week beginning 13th July

Prayer Meeting Week

7:30pm 23rd (Kea) 24th (Christ Church) July

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH



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