

## FOR SMALL GROUPS OR PERSONAL STUDY

Welcome! Here at West, we are in our Christmas message series: “The Nearness of God.” Our hope and prayers for you are to know Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior. We also pray for you to be encouraged and inspired as you go out proclaiming the nearness of God during this special season.

**Read: Matthew 1:18-25**

### 1. A heart crushing \_\_\_\_\_:

What caused this commotion? How do we sometimes read into this story vs understanding first century cultural context?

Have you ever felt depressed or discouraged during the Christmas season? How did you handle that difficult time?

### 2. A heavenly \_\_\_\_\_:

What did Joseph learn? How did he learn it?

What was happening in the Womb of Mary?

What was Jesus’ mission? How has His mission impacted your life?

### 3. A humble \_\_\_\_\_:

**How did Joseph respond to the angelic message? Would you have done the same?**

**APPLICATION:** Lessons learned from this part of the Christmas story. Talk about each.

- 1.) The consequence of \_\_\_\_\_ is terrible.
- 2.) God is always \_\_\_\_\_ than you think.
- 3.) The birth of Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the new creation.
- 4.) We can trust God’s \_\_\_\_\_ when circumstances make no sense.
- 5.) God desires \_\_\_\_\_ over reputation.
- 6.) You and I have a \_\_\_\_\_ in this life.