



BACKSTAGE FOR CHRISTMAS

"Behind the Scenes at Christmas" – (1 Peter 1:13-2:2)
November 30, 2014 – TABLE GROUP GUIDE

Begin by reading the devotion inside the bulletin. This is also posted online on facebook.com/fcctown and at fcctown.com/media.php under the sermon video.

Looking Back

- 1) During this past week, where have you seen God's hand at work in or around you?
- 2) Share an opportunity you had recently to live "Life on Mission" (Connect, Share, Serve or Grow).

If you were unable to attend worship on Sunday, please go to fcctown.com and watch Sunday's sermon prior to meeting with your weekly table group.

Jesus was never plan B. God knew that Jesus would come and that Jesus would save and that Jesus would be the greatest gift for us before there was "us." Too often we view the coming of Christ into the world at Christmas as God's alternative rescue plan. But that's not the case. From before the beginning of time, God had been preparing for his arrival and his purpose for us.

Digging Deeper

What did you do as a child that got you into real trouble?

What toy or game did you enjoy the most when you were 12 or younger? What happened to it? Would you play with it today if you had it? Be honest!

Read 1 Peter 1:13-2:2

From the five commands Peter gives in verses 13-15, how would you define "holy"?

What reasons does Peter give for his commands (vv. 17-21)? How can those reasons move us to obey?

What does the Old Testament imagery teach you about Jesus (vv. 18-21)?

What does it mean to "live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear" (v. 17)?

Now that these people have put their faith in Jesus, what differences will that make in the way they think and act (1:22-2:2)?

In terms of time, effort, and money spent, which comes first for you: perishables or "forever" items? How can we rectify (or verify) this in our lives?

Under stress, what helps you to "set your hope fully on the grace of God," rather than to rely on your own wits to solve the problem?

Moving Forward

Considering this week's teaching and group discussion, what can your table group do or pray for you?

If you would like to talk with a minister, please call (270) 765-4994 to set up an appointment or contact:

Stuart Jones stuart@fcctown.com Senior Minister
Chris Kiger chris@fcctown.com Student Minister
Jason Fox jason@fcctown.com Small Group Minister

Doug Mitchell doug@fcctown.com Connections Minister
Tim Hurd tim@fcctown.com Children's Minister
Shannon Smith Shannon@fcctown.com Assistant Children's Director



What are the purposes of a table group? To dig deeper into the Biblical principle(s) presented each Sunday morning during the FCC worship hour, to connect and share with other group members and to support one another as we strive to live out each week's teaching.

What does a table group do? A group discussion guide will be provided in the bulletin each Sunday and will be available on the FCC Facebook page by noon on Monday. The discussion guide will focus the group and challenge each participant to action.

Who establishes and makes up a table group?

1. Husband & Wife
2. Family
3. 2-5 Guys
4. 2-5 Ladies
5. 2-5 Couples

Where do they meet?

1. Kitchen table
2. Coffee table
3. Cafe table
4. Restaurant table
5. Picnic table
6. Work table
7. Round table

How often do they meet? Weekly (day and time is decided by the group)

How long should the weekly meeting last? Varies (decided by the group)

Who leads a table group? Leadership can be shared or a leader can be chosen by the group.

How long does the group stay together? The group should commit to stay together 6-8 weeks. Groups can renew their commitment to meet together for another season (6-8 weeks).

Is a table group an official FCC group? Table groups are not organized by FCC but are provided as opportunities for individuals to connect and become better followers of Jesus. FCC would like to know how this opportunity is being utilized. When your group establishes a place, time, and participants, please report to Doug Mitchell at (270) 765-4994 or doug@fccetown.com.

Can an individual be a part of more than one table group? Yes, but our goal is that every individual attending a worship service be a part of at least one table group.

What happens if the group is too big to meet around a table? No table group should have more than 10 individuals. If a group grows to have more than 10 participants, there are two options:

- 1) Multiply into separate tables (groups of less than 10). Or
- 2) Seek to establish a life group (10-20 participants). To establish a life group, contact Doug Mitchell at (270) 765-4994 or doug@fccetown.com.