

HomeGroup Discussion Guide

December 7-13, 2008

Key Idea of the Week:

Jesus Christ's arrival on earth was shockingly humble. The King of Kings was born in a barn. God demonstrated his humble nature to us in this, yet we celebrate his humble arrival at Christmas by wastefully spending fortunes on things we don't need while many in our world go hungry. How can we balance Christmas spending and how can we honor Christ's birthday rightly?

Discussion Guide:

Pray for God to soften your hearts and speak to you as you open His Word together.

Read Deuteronomy 15:1-11.

Discuss

How would your life be different today if every seven years we canceled debts in Canada?

Does it sound fair? Why or why not?

Behind the idea of canceling debts there is an underlying principle in this passage. What is it?

(Leaders, don't read this out loud, but in case the above question stumps your group, I believe the underlying principle is something like... 'Don't become rich at others expense,' or 'As far as it is within your ability, do not let others slip into financial bondage and helplessness.' That's why we should be open-handed and even go so far as to regularly erase debts.)

Why don't we help needy people more? What stands in our way?

Do you think God is pleased by how you celebrate Christmas in your home? Which parts is He pleased by? Which parts might he be disappointed by?

What are you going to do this Christmas to remember the needy and keep balanced in your celebrations?

Pray for courage to act on what you've learned this week and for any requests that may have been raised by members of the group.