



# Talking Points

## God Came Near

Although telling the truth is certainly significant when it comes to telling the truth about *others*, it applies just as powerfully to telling the truth about *ourselves*. Remind your groups that closeness can't happen without truth.

*Life Groups at Maple Grove: Stronger relationships with God through stronger relationships with one another.*

## Coming Together

1. What are some of your family traditions during the Christmas season? Which ones are your favorites?
2. What Christmas Carol is your favorite? Why? Which one is probably your least favorite? Why?
3. What is your favorite animated Christmas show or movie? What is your favorite non-animated Christmas show or movie?
4. When was a time when you were separated from a loved one? What were the circumstances? How long was the separation? What was it like to be together again?

## Going Deeper

1. Read together as a group the following passages about Jesus' birth and discuss what they **reveal** about God, Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-45, 2:1-40.
2. As a group reflect on the life of Jesus. What does Jesus' life **reveal** about God?
3. As a group read all the passages in your message notes from Sunday under the point **Remove** The Distance. What words, phrases or concepts really hit you in those passages? What did it cost God to **remove** this distance? Why was he willing to pay such a high price? How does this make you feel?
4. Does the idea of helping create a better future excite you? Why? What is the ultimate source of our **restoration**? Do you think your **restoration** is exciting to God? Why?

## Making It Real

1. Jesus came near to reveal God to us, to show us what God is really like. What aspects of this reveal are you particularly drawn to? In other words, what does Jesus reveal about God that really excites you?
2. In Michelangelo's painting of God and Adam, we see God passionately reaching out to Adam closing the gap between them, leaving just a small space for Adam to make his move. Adam on the other hand, seems to be less than passionate to remove the remaining distance – it's like he has the 'whatever' attitude. How passionate are you about closing this gap between you and God? What are you doing in an effort to close it? Why do you think so many believers are so indifferent to God's unrelenting passion to be near them?
3. God came near to restore His image in us. In what ways has He been successful in doing this restoration in your life? Does the reality of this restoration excite you? If it does, why? If it doesn't, why?
4. How well did you do this Christmas at not losing your focus on what this time of year is all about?

## Moving Forward

This week continue to focus on those 3 incredible reasons why God came near; to reveal himself to us, to remove the distance between us and the restore His image in us. Ask God to help these truths change your life?