



DECEMBER GROUP GUIDE

The Christmas season offers a powerful opportunity to slow down, look beyond ourselves and reflect the heart of Jesus by serving and loving others in tangible ways. The December Group Guide is designed a little differently. The entire month's content will be posted all at once, giving you and your group the flexibility to plan ahead. You will find three weeks of content intended for the first three weeks of December, with the final two weeks left open as they fall over Christmas and New Year's.

Your group can choose the order in which you complete each week's content, but please note that some weeks require advance preparation for the activity, such as coordinating a serve opportunity or gathering materials like cards and pens for writing letters to a foster family. We also recognize that not every group is in a position to spend money this season, and that is completely okay. There are meaningful ways to serve through your time, presence, and intentional prayer over the opportunities in this guide. Please prepare as best you can and be sure to click any serve links or directions provided in the content to help you plan well.

We encourage you to review the guide early and watch the corresponding video together before each week's discussion or activity. As you use the December guide, be sure to also set aside time to celebrate, have a Christmas gathering, spend quality time together, and reflect on God's faithfulness throughout the year.

ACTIVITY

- Sign up to serve as a group at <u>tpcc.org/Christmas-impact</u> and view the Gift Guide to purchase needed gifts as a group.
 - The link contains details on when and where to drop off purchased gifts

This Christmas, Traders Point is partnering with Shepherd Community Center to bless families in our city through their Christmas Store. Together, we're collecting 20,000 new, unwrapped gifts so parents can shop for their children with joy this Christmas! Let's come together to share the love and hope of Jesus with our city this Christmas.

CHRISTMAS IMPACT VIDEO

DISCUSSION

- Read Matthew 25:35–36
 - How does serving through something like the Christmas Store help us reflect the love and generosity of Jesus?
- Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-10
 - Why do you think serving as a group can deepen relationships and strengthen community?
- Read Matthew 5:16
 - What do you think it means to "be the church beyond Sunday"? How can your group live that out this season?
- Read 1 Peter 4:10
 - Has God given you any gifts to serve others that you've left unopened?
- Read Galatians 6:9-10
 - What is one next step your group can take this week to get more involved in the Christmas season?

PRAY

Take a moment to pray for the families who will be part of the Christmas Store. Ask God to let every gift reflect His love and bring hope to each home. Pray for unity and compassion in your group as you serve this season. Lift up Shepherd Community Center, the volunteers, and the parents who will shop, asking that they experience peace, dignity, and the presence of God. May we shine the light of Jesus as we love our city well this Christmas.

ACTIVITY

• Explore upcoming GO Trips and global partners by visiting <u>tpcc.org/serve-far</u>. Have each member of the group read about a different partner and share what they've learned!

God is using our global partners to bring hope, healing, and opportunity to some of the most vulnerable communities around the world. Through organizations like Missions of Hope International, Compassion International, and Food for the Hungry, lives are being transformed physically, spiritually, and emotionally. And through GO Trips, we get to join that story firsthand. When we say "yes" to going, giving, or praying, we become part of God's mission to make His name known among all people.

GLOBAL VIDEO

DISCUSSION

- Read Matthew 28:19-20
 - What does "going" look like for you personally, both locally and globally?
 - How can your group support global missions together, such as sponsoring a child, praying for a partner ministry, or taking a trip?
- Read Acts 1:8
 - What might it look like for you to live as a "witness" in your immediate circle and to the ends of the earth?
 - How have you seen God stretch or grow your faith when you've stepped outside your comfort zone to serve others?
- Read Isaiah 52:7
 - What stood out to you most from the stories of our global partners in the video, and why?
 - Why do you think sharing the gospel through words, service, or compassion has such a visible impact on the world?

PRAY

Take a moment to pray together for one of the ministries highlighted in the video or one you found through the Serve Far link. Ask God to show how your group can respond through prayer, giving, or serving. Close by thanking Him for including you in His mission and asking Him to guide your group in bringing His love, hope, and healing to others.



DECEMBER GROUP STUDY GUIDE

CONTENT OPTION 3 | FOSTER & ADOPTION

ACTIVITY

• Create a gift basket or write encouraging notes for a foster family. Including a coffee gift card is optional but encouraged!

Gift Basket Ideas:

- Gingerbread kit (easy ingredients, cookie sheet, icing)
- Sugar cookie decorating kit
- Christmas movie night kit (streaming platform gift card, popcorn, candy)

How to Deliver:

 For baskets, email Moriah Coons (<u>mcoons@tpcc.org</u>) to receive a local foster family's name, address, and phone number for group drop off

For letters, email Moriah Coons (mcoons@tpcc.org) to coordinate details.

At Traders Point, we support vulnerable children by coming alongside the families who foster them through Care Communities—small groups that provide emotional, spiritual, and practical assistance, such as meals, transportation, or prayer. With over 20 active communities but more than 10 families still waiting for support, even small acts of kindness make a difference. If your group is interested in getting involved, please contact your Traders Point Groups Staff Member to learn more or visit our foster and adoption webpage at https://tpcc.org/fam.

FOSTER & ADOPTION VIDEO

DISCUSSION

Read Acts 20:35

- How does the idea that "it is more blessed to give than to receive" challenge the way we view our time, resources, and talents?
- In what ways can our group intentionally support those who are weak or in need in our community?

Read Psalms 82:3-4

- What practical steps can we take to defend the weak and uphold the cause of the oppressed in our daily lives?
- How might God be calling our group to rescue or stand alongside those in need within our sphere of influence?

PRAY

Pray for foster families, thanking God for their love and care for vulnerable children. Ask Him to fill them with peace, strength, and joy this Christmas, and to show you practical ways to encourage, support, and bring hope to them.