



## BiG iDEA SMALL GROUP DiSCUSSiON GiDE

Small groups that focus on the Big Idea for the week can use this guide to apply the message to life and take action. Feel free to use whatever parts of this guide best fit your group personality and time frame. Do NOT feel like you have to use every question. All verses, unless otherwise noted, are from the New International Version (NIV).

**12.05.09//12.06.09 // Mystery Messiah: Prophecies**

### BiG iDEA:

**Christmas reveals the mystery that the Messiah would fulfill the prophecies of Scripture that give proof of his identity. Jesus is that Messiah.**

### // Ice Breaker \_\_\_\_\_

**Option 1: What are some of your favorite mystery Movies and TV shows? Why?**

**Option 2: The Messiah was prophesied in dozens of places in the Old Testament, hundreds of years before Jesus birth. Share your thoughts about the miraculous way these were fulfilled by Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection.**

### // Questions for Discussion \_\_\_\_\_

**1. The first prophecy made about the coming of the Messiah was spoken by God following the Fall into sin in the Garden of Eden. Read Genesis 3:15**

"And I will put enmity between you (Satan) and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

**How is this fulfilled through the death and resurrection of Christ?**

**2. Read Galatians 4:4**

".when the fullness of the time came. God sent forth His Son..."

- a. **When was the fullness of time? Why do you think the timing was just right to send Jesus into the world?**
- b. **Do you think the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies is a convincing proof to unbelievers? Is it more meaningful to Jewish people?**
- c. **Why should we be thankful to live at this time in history?**

**3. A mystery is something that is hidden. But the New Testament reveals the mysteries of God's plans from the Old Testament.**

- a. Why do you think the Jewish leaders, who were experts in the Old Testament, didn't think Jesus was the Savior?
  - b. Why is it important that Jesus fulfilled all the prophecies from the Old Testament?
4. There were at least 48 major prophecies that were fulfilled by Jesus at least *400 years after* they were written. The odds of that are one in 10<sup>157</sup> (1 followed by 157 zeros).
- a. Do you think this could have been a coincidence?
  - b. Do you think this could have been a conspiracy by Jesus and His Disciples manipulating events? Why or why not?
5. All of Jesus Disciples, except John, were killed for their faith.
- a. Would they be willing to die if they thought Jesus wasn't really the Savior? Why or Why Not?
  - b. How do you think Jesus fulfilling prophecy helped convince them that He was really the Savior?
6. Read 2 Peter 1: 20, 21

<sup>20</sup>Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. <sup>21</sup>For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

**How does the fulfillment all of Jesus' prophecies in the Bible affect the claim that the Bible is true and without error?**

7. a. How does knowing that Jesus fulfilled all the prophecies about the Messiah affect your faith?
- b. How can this help to explain your trust in Jesus to others?

// Application \_\_\_\_\_

**Read and commit to memory Acts 10:43 (CEV)**

"Every one of the prophets has said that all who have faith in Jesus will have their sins forgiven in His name."

**Read Isaiah 53, which was written 700 years before Jesus, and look at how all the prophecies were fulfilled.**

// Prayer \_\_\_\_\_

- Thank God for fulfilling the prophecy of the Messiah with Jesus.
- Pray for the Christmas Programs and Services at Southpoint - That the un-churched would come, and understand the message of the Messiah.