



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).

12.19.09//12.20.09 // Mystery Messiah: Shadows

BiG iDEA:

Christmas reveals the mystery that the Messiah would give full and better meaning to the Old Testament, which was meant to lead us to saving faith. Jesus is that Messiah.

// Ice Breaker _____

Option 1: What do you see as some of the biggest mysteries today? Why? (Note - It doesn't have to be spiritual - 'Why don't the Lions win?')

Option 2: When you were a child, what was something that seemed a total mystery at the time, but now that you are grown, you see clearly? (for example - 'Why don't adults just buy me what I want?')

// Questions for Discussion _____

1. Read Hebrews 10:1

"The [Old Testament] law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming--not the realities themselves."

We learned how the Old Testament has many mysteries (several hundred) that clearly point to Jesus.

- a. How does this change your how you view the Old Testament?
- b. How will this change the way you read the Old Testament?

2. Read Romans 5: 14 - 15

"...Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come. ...For if died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!

- a. What is Adam's Nature?
- b. What affect does this have on us?

3. a. What is Jesus' Nature?

- b. What affect does this have on us?

4. Read Acts 3: 23

"For Moses said, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you must listen to everything he tells you. Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from among his people.'

Moses says that Jesus will be a Prophet and we must listen to him.

- a. What does it mean 'You must listen to everything He tells you.' ?
- b. What does it mean 'Anyone who does not listen to Him will be completely cut off' ?

5. Read John 1:29

"...Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

- a. How is Jesus like the Lamb the Priests sacrificed in the Old Testament?
- b. How is Jesus sacrifice better than the Lamb of the Old Testament?

6. Read John 2: 19 - 20

"Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?' But the temple he had spoken of was his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken."

We learned Jesus fulfilled all of the mysteries and prophecies about the coming Messiah.

- a. What do you think this says about the Bible truly being the Word of God and not just another book?
- b. How does this give you confidence to really live as the Bible says we should live?

7. Read Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

- a. Why did God have to provide a Savior?
- b. What are some reasons people don't think they need a Savior?
- c. Have the group share any of their reasons for not needing a Savior before they committed to Jesus.

// Application _____

Read and commit to memory John 1:29

"...Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

As you go through the Christmas Season, see how many mysteries that Jesus answered through His birth, life and death.

// Prayer _____

- Thank God for the gift of Jesus, who is our Savior.
- Pray for those who do not have anyone to share Christmas with.