

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

December 29-30

“Treasure and Ponder”

By Kelly Archer

What Is This?

This brief guide is intended for use individually, or in small groups. It's your chance to dive deeper into the issues raised in the weekend sermon and to connect a Biblical story with your daily life.

Revisit the Text

Luke 2:41-51; <https://bit.ly/2TJNEwr>

Big Ideas Raised

- Over and over again, God shows us his preference for the unexpected, the unprepared, and the least of thee. Our nativity story illustrates this lesson for us every year. God is much more interested in the “one who is willing to try something new”.
- Jesus and Mary lose Jesus, quite literally, for three days. The next time you are feeling bad over a parenting moment just remember even the holy family had their moments!
- By jumping from swaddling clothes Jesus to tween Jesus, the Gospel writer Luke, as well as the Revised Common Lectionary which assigns this text to this day, prevents us from lingering too long in that manger. It reminds us that *how* God's son came to earth is only part of the story, we must also consider *why*?

Questions Meant to Dig Deeper

- It has been said, “God does not call the equipped, He equips the called.” Mary followed the call on her life, even as a young girl. What is the call on your life? Or in other words, how do your particular gifts and talents glorify God and God's people?
- Re-read the poem The Work of Christmas by Rev. Howard Thurman. (See sermon manuscript). What are your reactions and reflections to this poem? Does it feel like Christmas is over to you? OR does it feel like its just beginning? We can keep Christmas in our hearts all year long if we follow Thurman's charge to do the work of Christmas each and every day. How will you do that today?
- When and where do you “lose Jesus”? Finding Jesus is often used metaphorically to mark the beginning of Christian discipleship. We don't use the phrase lose Jesus as commonly, but we do lose Jesus. We lose Jesus whenever we lose our ability to show compassion, mercy, and justice. So, when/where do you lose Jesus in your life and how might you find him again?

Revisit the Sermon

For a recording or a manuscript of this weekend's sermon, please visit: <https://www.stlucasucc.org/sermons-resources>