

**Atonement Fargo**  
**Life Group Nov 28, 2021**

**What Child is This?**  
**The Child That Taught Us to Live**

**Ice Breaker**

- Share a Christmas memory of your childhood.
- Were there any memories or situations from Christmas' past that taught you something about life that has stuck with you?

**Take It In** – today's video

**Talk It Over**

**God's Plan for Life.**

**Read John 1:1-4; Genesis 1:1-2; Genesis 2:4-9**

1. The Christmas story in John's Gospel approaches the nativity of Jesus by drawing the reader's attention to the "nativity" of Creation. What does Genesis tell us about God's plan for life? According to Genesis 2:7, what makes human life different from the rest of Creation?
2. From John 1:1-4 we see that the John the Evangelist refers to Jesus as "the Word." Picking up on the Creation narrative, John also says, "In him was life, and the life was the light of men." In what way does Jesus bring "life" to you? In what does the life of Jesus shine as light to you?
3. Based on these two passages, the Bible tells us that from the very beginning, God had a plan for human life, even your life. How does knowing this give you hope or encouragement?

**Our Plan for Our Lives.**

**Read Genesis 3:1-7; Romans 3:23**

1. We like to think we are in charge of our lives. What happened when our first parents, Adam and Eve, took control of their lives? Do you think you would have done any better? Why or why not?
2. According to Paul's letter to the Roman church, what's the ultimate result of trying to run our lives our way?

**Read Matthew 6:25; Luke 12:15; Luke 15:11-24**

1. What are some of the things you are most anxious about? How does being anxious affect your life? Does it in any way make your life better? Why do you suppose we are so inclined to be anxious?

### **Read Luke 15:11-24**

2. In the familiar parable of the Prodigal Son, in what way does younger son express an entitlement attitude toward the life the father has provided for him? Are there ways in which we express the same sort of attitude toward the life God has provided for us?
3. In addition to expressing an entitlement attitude, the younger son was said to have squandered the living his father had provided. What is your reaction to the squandering of life? How do we squander what God has given us?

### **Jesus Redeems Our Lives.**

#### **Read John 3:16; John 6:68; John 10:10**

1. What do these passages say about God's plan for your life? What do they say about God's attitude toward you?
2. What does eternal life mean to you?
3. What is the difference between material prosperity and the abundant life? Why do you think so many people confuse the two?

### **Read Romans 6:3-5**

1. Now here's a paradox: Jesus died so that we may have new life. What does walking in "newness of life" look like to you?
2. What does this passage say about the role of baptism in your new life in Christ?

### **Live It Out**

Living an abundant life doesn't mean living in a life that is free from trials, discouragement, and death. But remaining steadfast in the new life that Christ brings us leads to receiving the crown of life. God's intention for our life was realized by Christ, and by embracing the gift from Christ, we are freed to live life as God intended, rising above our circumstances and anxieties, with the hope of eternal life.

### **Prayer**