

Close to Home (3 of 4)
Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, December 12th 2021



Sermon Series Focus: When something hits *close to home* it affects us deeply. During the Advent and Christmas season, we journey through Scriptures and traditions that are tender, heavy with emotion, and make us more vulnerable. We carry the memories and truths of this season close to our hearts. Join us this Advent season as we look at the Christmas story and acknowledge the “already but not yet” tension of our faith: God is already with us and heaven is coming to earth, and yet, God’s promised day—our eternal home—is not fully realized. So, how then shall we live?

Sermon Title: A Home for All (Joy)

Scripture Reading: Luke 3:1-18

Sermon Focus: John the Baptist’s proclamation sounds harsh, but he preaches good news for all people where hearts are changed and where the coming King will bring down every mountain of injustice and raise every valley of hurt and brokenness. John’s message is one of joy, because our true deliverer has come and he invites us to participate in his work of restoration and repair. Listen as Pastor Melissa shares how God is coming to establish a home for all, if only we’ll receive it.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person, by phone, or video call. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. At the beginning of the message, Melissa described the evidence that we see of dissatisfaction with the state of our society and a longing we have for home (e.g., the Great Resignation, mental health crisis, disenchantment with political structures, etc.). Are you feeling this kind of yearning? What do you think "home" could look like?
2. Read Luke 3:1-18 together. What stands out to you about John's message to "prepare the way" for the Messiah? What might that look like?
3. John's message doesn't seem at first like "good news," but it is! The Good News of Christ can be summed up as: *You are more sinful and flawed than you ever dared believe, but you are more deeply loved than you ever dared imagine.* Where do you see this coming out in the passage? What part of this good news resonates with you?
4. Take a few moments to reflect individually: Is there an area in your life that God might be showing you needs to be re-ordered? Is there something that you tend to place at a higher priority level than Christ? What does that look like? Or, is there something in your heart that you tend to hide or ignore? Ask the Spirit to show you where you might need to more fully surrender to him and turn to the Good King in repentance. Some members of the group may wish to share after this time of reflection. If you're comfortable sharing, please do!
5. Where in your life or community are you noticing a crooked path or rough place, and how might God be inviting you to join him in his work of restoration? What's a small step you can take this Advent season to "fill in" the valleys or "make low" the mountains?