



Groups are regular, long haul space to **share, care, trust and grow**. Welcome!

Get Started

10-15 mins

FACILITATOR PREP: Read through the 3 sections. Note your own thoughts. Here are [this week's message notes](#). Your group thanks you!

Welcome! This week's conversation is brought to you by A Boy Called Christmas as we get ready for Christmas with [SANTAFLIX](#). *For me this series or movie has made me wonder/appreciate/notice...*

To make the most of our time (and keep it... *jolly!*) we review a few **Group Agreements** each week. They're on the back/page 2. Take your time, pass them around to read.

Check-In: Share names and something you came for today. *What is something you are hoping for from this time together? Light a candle.* May all that be so! The hardest part is done. We've already **pushed pause** to be here together with all our realities, hopes and wishes in this full season.

Discussion & Practice Ideas

30-60 mins

1. **Warm up.** *What was something in the movie itself that was particularly powerful or meaningful to you? Share your 'ahas!'*
2. **"Do you believe because you see? Or do you see because you believe?"** Sometimes seeing is believing. *What are times you've believed something before seeing it? Perhaps the goodness of a new neighbor, the power of forgiveness or potential of a new idea...*

After experiencing a great loss, the leader of Elfheim had come to believe that goodwill was "just another name for weakness." *What happens when the story you believe isn't one of hope, kindness or joy?*

3. **Take a [ROAM](#)** through two very different tellings of the Christmas story and see what you discover.

Read [John 1.1-5](#) and [Luke 2.8-35](#). Invite everyone to write a short response to each below, then compare notes.

Observe: what do you observe?

Apply: what do these readings inspire you to practice (not perfect) in your life this week?

Meditate: what is a mantra or reminder you want to hold onto this week as you practice?

Close

5-15 mins

Take aways. Invite everyone to share one. Thanks for these gifts you've given each other. May they keep on giving!

Check in on plans for upcoming meetings: who is facilitating, providing hospitality, or other needs of your group. *Remember, anyone is welcome to serve the group as facilitator.* **Next meeting:**





Group Agreements

1. **Push pause.** The world is noisy. Before speaking, take a breath.... let Silence be a voice in your Group.
2. **Be present.** Your being here matters! Step up to share when you are ready. Step back to listen.
3. **Share what you want** when you want. "I'll pass" is always an option.
4. **Confidentiality.** Always ask before sharing anything outside the group, even if it is with the most supportive of intentions.
5. **Wonder over judgment.** Stay curious about yourself and others. Practice open and honest questions. Asking "how" not "why" can take you on a tour instead of a trial of yourself and others.
6. **Listening is a superpower.** Listening to others share their own experiences, struggle and strength is empowering. So is being listened to!
7. **Speak from your own experience,** to the whole group. Ask for help or feedback for yourself if you'd like, but avoid crosstalk, fixing, interpretation, or unsolicited advice directed toward another group member.

These agreements are practiced, not perfected! You can always circle back with the group or an individual to share how something felt to you or check in. Here's an [article](#) on how to apologize well. Practice when it's easy!

Sometimes there will be care and support needs that go beyond what can be addressed within your normal group operation. That's a good time to pull out the [Care IQ](#) tools.

