

I Believe

Step 1

READ Luke 24:44.

There are 127 Old Testament verses which make personal Messianic predictions. Rabbinical writings have identified 456 Old Testament passages which refer to the Messiah and Messianic times.

If Jesus doesn't fulfill each of these prophecies, we should NOT worship Him because he couldn't be the Christ.

But if he does fulfill them, Jesus should blow your mind, receive your highest worship, and command your first obedience. For He is both Lord and Christ.

What are the implications if this statement is true?

READ Luke 1:29-33 and Daniel 9:20-21.

NOTICE the emphasis on the baby being a descendant of David.

Why is that important?

Which angel came to Mary? Why do you think that is important?

Step 2

READ John 7:6-9.

Have you ever noticed Jesus' emphasis on doing things at the right time?

DISCUSS: Why was this important?

READ Zechariah 9:9 and Matthew 21:1-5.

Do you realize the amount of planning it took for Jesus to ride into Jerusalem on a donkey?

DISCUSS What was Jesus saying by riding into Jerusalem on a donkey at this time? Have you ever felt that God's timing was off?

What does this week's message teach you about God's plan and timing?

Step 3

TAKE plenty of time to do this step together.

READ aloud John 1:14-18, Isaiah 53, and Philippians 2:6-11. **READ the verses more than once and from more than one translation, if possible.**

LISTEN to what the Scripture verses are saying - like you're reading and hearing them for the first time.

SHARE with your group:

What do you find surprising about Jesus the Messiah in these passages?

What stands out to you? Why? Which phrase or verse from the

Scriptures just read speaks to you personally?

Step 4

READ Jeremiah 31:31-34 and Matthew 26:26-29.

DISCUSS: How has Jesus fulfilled the prophecy written in Jeremiah 31:31-34? How does communion celebrate the new covenant?

As an individual, small group or with your family, **CONSIDER** celebrating communion:

- **TAKE simple bread and juice in a cup.**
- **PRAY a prayer of thanksgiving.**
- **READ aloud Matthew 26:26-29.**
- **THINK about Jesus' life, death and resurrection.**
 - What are you thankful for?
 - What causes you to wonder?
 - What is most meaningful to you?
- **PASS out the bread and eat together saying,**
 - "Do this in remembrance of me."
- **HOLD up the cup saying,**
 - "This is the symbol of the blood of the new covenant.
 - Do this in remembrance of me."
- **PASS the cup to everyone who wishes to drink from the cup.**
- **SHARE an open time of prayer and thanksgiving.**
- **SING a Christmas carol together - perhaps O Come, O Come Emmanuel.**
- **CLOSE your time by reciting this excerpt from the Nicene Creed:**

Nicene Creed - 381

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.