

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

ADVENT SERIES

These questions are for the **December 11, 2016** sermon, "O Little Town of Bethlehem." Please read the sermon passage (Micah 5:2-9) together out loud.

WHEN SINGING *O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM*, NOTE . . .

1. **The promised reign of Messiah.** (2-6)
 - A. The Messiah's first coming (Bethlehem) (2-3)
 - i. 8 centuries ahead of time, Micah tells us that the ruler will be born in Bethlehem, Ephratha. (Ephratha is the region, designating *this* Bethlehem.)
 - ii. Bethlehem is small and insignificant. God delights in small beginnings.
 - B. The Messiah's second coming (4-6)
 - i. Christ will shepherd his flock in strength.
 - ii. God's people will be ultimately secure, even as he delivers us.
2. **The protected people (remnant) of the Messiah.** (7-9)
 - A. The word "remnant" indicates that a portion of God's people will be faithful to the end.
 - B. God will provide sufficient resources to work his plan to perfection.
 - C. There will be a global re-gathering of God's faithful to Jerusalem.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Are you in awe of the fact that God predicted that Messiah would be born in Bethlehem 700+ years before it happened? How does this truth make you marvel? Do you think this truth makes the average singer of *O Little Town of Bethlehem* amazed? Why/why not?
2. Based on #1, above: God was very specific about which Bethlehem Jesus would be born in: "Bethlehem, Ephratha." This was a tiny little town. God delights in small beginnings. Do you ever feel as though your little life is very small? How is God using it in growing ways?
3. Based on #1, above: There is a future coming in which Christ will shepherd his flock in strength, and keep his people perfectly secure. Do you think much about Christ's Second Coming? His future reign is certain, and will be total. How does the certainty of this future reign and Christ's Second Coming produce peace in your heart?
4. Based on #2, above: No enemy of God will ultimately stand against him or harm his people. Does this bring peace to your heart as one who lives in hard days? As one who belongs to the Lord?