



The best stories are about redemption. The message of Christmas reminds us that every story can end better than it starts. This series uses Charles Dickens' classic *A Christmas Carol* as a platform to rehear the greatest redemption story of all.

**These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.**

**1** In this series, Rick is reminding us that the best stories are about redemption, and that is true of the best Christmas stories. Share some examples of how you've seen this to be true and talk about why that resonates with you so much during this time of year.

**2 SCROOGE SEES *that life is better together.***  
The Ghost of Christmas Present helps Scrooge realize that *"who you're with is more important than what you're worth."* Why are we often seduced into believing the myth of the "purchase of happiness" and why is this simply not true? Share some examples of times you've realized that your **"with"** list means more than your **"wish"** list.

**3 WISDOM SOWS *into relationships first and most.*** Take a moment to read through the following scriptures together that remind us that Christmas is a community reality: God with us! **Read Matthew 1:21; Luke 2:10; and John 1:14, 3:16.** What are some significant truths these verses remind us of?

**4 1 John 3:16** says, *"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters."* What are some practical ways we can lay down our lives for each other (see **1 Timothy 6:18-19** and **Philippians 2:5-7**)?

**5 CHRISTMAS SAYS *we are on God's "with" list.***  
Since sin could not move into God's neighborhood, God chose to move into ours. How have you experienced the truth of Jesus being "God with us"? Share the name of "your one" and pray about an opportunity to remind them of this truth this month.

**6 Read Isaiah 41:10.** Christmas does not promise a life absent of struggle; it promises that God will be present in the midst of it. Share an example of how you've experienced this recently.

**7** Rick closed by reminding us that *"Someday we will live in a 'without' world. But in this present world, decide that you won't live without others."* What are some practical ways you can intentionally treasure the people in your life?

