

Dig Deeper @Home – “Kingdom Come”
Complement to sermon on 12/16/2018 – “Seek”(Joy)

ICE BREAKER – ask these to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. What is your favorite tradition related to Christmas?
2. Who are three “Magi” or wise persons you look to for advice??

MEMORIZE – Matthew 21: 42-44

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?’ Therefore, I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

READ – Read Matthew 2:1-12

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What does this passage reveal about God? About humanity?
2. If the above is true, what needs to change in your life?
3. As you read the story of the Magi, they ask for “the one who has been born king of the Jews”. The term “king of the Jews” is also used by Pilate and the Roman soldiers, and on the cross (read Matt 27:11, Matt 27:29, Matt 27:37. What does it mean that only non-Jews used this language to describe Jesus and his rule over his kingdom? What does this say about the kingdom of God and the spread of the Gospel?
4. Read verse 2. How could the Magi have known about “the king of the Jews”? (Read Matthew 1:11-12a,17; Daniel 7:13-14; Deuteronomy 4:29) What had signaled his birth to them? (Numbers 24:17)
5. Read verse 6. What is the significance that Jesus the Messiah was born in Bethlehem? What does this prophecy tell us about the nature of his kingship? (Matthew 9:36; Ezekiel 34:11-16) What does it mean to us that Jesus is our Shepherd? (John 10:11; 1 Peter 2:25; Isaiah 9:6-7).
6. Read verse 11. When they saw the child with his mother Mary, what did the Magi do? What is the significance of their bowing down in worship to him? (Revelation 5:8-10) What do their gifts tell us about Jesus? How are both their bowing down and giving their treasures related to true worship?

Experiential: Discovering the unexpected

Close your eyes. Imagine you are a wise man and the star *“went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.”* Play the song, *“I can only imagine”* by Mercyme. Imagine the anticipation you are feeling as you see the star stop over the place where the Christ child is staying. As you enter the house you are overwhelmed and you are drawn to worship Jesus. As a response, you open your treasures and offer them to the King of Kings. What are the treasures you would bring? How would you worship and express your love and devotion to Jesus? If you are together with a group, talk about how you would experience worship in this setting.

Testimony Time

Share about a time when you experienced God guiding you in a specific way. How did that experience lead you to a deeper trust in and worship of God?

SING (suggested songs to sing. Use these or any song you might want to sing)

Here I am to Worship - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CoxopsRSfdU>

The First Noel – Mennonite Hymnal #137

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the lesson:

Lord Jesus, may your light shine on our way, as once it guided the steps of the magi: that we too may be led into your presence and experience the exceeding great joy of seeking you and worshipping you as Christ our Lord. Amen