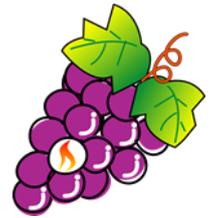




LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: Jan 8th 2023

All Age Service: Epiphany
Matthew 2:1-12, Romans 12:1-8



Warm Up

Apart from Jesus... what is the best gift you have ever received? What made it so good? Was it the value or the thought behind the gift? Have you still got the gift? What was the worst gift? Why?

Background and context

Epiphany marks the visit of the wise men. It also marks the end of the Christmas season. Our traditional nativity suggests the wise men saw Jesus as a baby, however, it may have been up to two years later.

Who were the Magi? Possibly followers of a faith called Zoroastrianism. They may have come from all over the known world. Frankincense comes from the Arabian Peninsula and Africa not the east!

The gifts they offer are clearly symbolic and show recognition of who Jesus was and is.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity

Read both passages out loud.

What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand? This could be a time to discuss and share reflections and ideas on the passage or watch a Bible project type video that helps explain things.

1. What evidence is there in Matthew 2 that the Magi had read scripture and were responding to God's call?
2. What can we learn about the style of King Herod's reign?
3. After they had seen Jesus, how did God change them?
4. How do we know that the wise men understood the significance of who Jesus was?
5. How many biblical connections can you make between dreams, Egypt and rescue?

Growing in discipleship: Practical application

6. We saw that God moved in the lives of the Magi. How has God moved in your life?
7. The Magi avoided a bad choice because they listened to God in a dream. How do we hear from God? Give an example from your life about how you avoided a bad choice/ or not? Did you follow God's voice?
8. Read Romans 12:1-8 What gifts do you offer Jesus? What does it look like in your life?



Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.