

LifeGroup Study Sheet

Dec 10th, 2023 – Believe – Christmas Series

This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing for your group discussion.

Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

Introduction

In today's passage, the Magi had a decision to make – they could either trust God or trust man. Can you remember a time in your life where you had to decide whether you were going to listen to God rather than man's wisdom? How did you make that decision? What helped you make that decision? What about a time where you decided to trust man's guidance, rather than God's wisdom?

Digging In

Question 1: Read Matthew 2:1-12. In the passage, the Magi traveled a very far distance to find the "new King." The Bible says they traveled "from the east" (**v. 1**) – many biblical scholars believe they traveled several hundred miles over several days to arrive in Jerusalem. They **made worship a priority**. Think about all of the things they needed to endure, get over, and push aside to make sure they were able to worship Jesus. In what ways is your worship of Christ "blocked" or "hindered" throughout the week? How intentional are you in your worship even when it might take a lot of effort? How easy do you think it would have been for the Magi to "give up" on their far journey?

Question 2: Read Matthew 2:7-9. The Magi went to King Herod after they had been summoned by him to find out more information of this new King Jesus. It was clear that King Herod had impure motives (**v.7, 12, 16**). Even after listening to King Herod, they purposely followed the star that rose to find the New King. They **followed and worshipped on purpose**. How does this story get you to think about how purposeful your worship of Christ is? The Magi followed the star on purpose to go worship on purpose. How do you purposefully focus on how you will worship Jesus this week? How might that worship look? Does it only have to be at church on Sunday? Can it be at home, work, school, etc.?

Question 3: Matthew 2:10-12. The Magi arrive at Jesus' house, fall down and worship Him. The story tells us that they brought 3 gifts for King Jesus – gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The Magi **worshipped with participation and preparation**. How do you see from this story that the Magi put preparation into their worship? What about their participation? Another way to ask it, the Magi brought something to offer to Jesus when they came to worship. When was the last time you intentionally prepared to bring "something" with you in your worship of Jesus? Not necessarily a tangible gift, but something that would cost you something (time, energy, focus, etc.) Another part of this story is the Magi actively participating in worship. It wasn't something

that they sat and watched, or even just listened to. It was an active exercise. How does this relate to your own worship of Jesus?

Application – Take it Home

How does this story show you that God is in complete control over all things? God' sovereignty is clearly shown through OT prophecies, Magi following a star, Mary – Joseph and Jesus all being in the exact location.

How can you trust Jesus with the big picture and small details of your life today? How can you be reminded that God is in complete control of your story today?

Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

Adoration – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

Confession – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

Thanksgiving – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

Supplication – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?