

Small Group Discussion Guide

December 3, 2017



Sermon Title:

“Christmas Questions:
Where Does God Fit In?”

Sermon Text: Matthew 2:1-12

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-7

Leader: *Please allow a moment for introductions/visiting, and then have someone offer a brief prayer for God to meet with your group.*

Getting Started: What are some of your favorite Christmas traditions/activities?

Discussion:

1. Tough questions: How many of the traditions/activities mentioned at the start have Jesus as their focus? Where does God fit in as a part of your Christmas observance? Your family's? Our society's?
2. The pastor mentioned 4 negative ways Herod viewed Jesus – 1) a **Complication** (v 3), 2) a **Legend** (vs 4-6), 3) a **Secret** (v 7), and 4) with **Falsehood** (v 8). When you consider today's environment and how God fits into it, do you still see these 4 aspects? Do you believe they are heightened during the Christmas season?
3. In contrast to the 4 negative perspectives the pastor offered 4 positive ones. The first, **Celebration** (v 10). Are we really celebrating Jesus? In the giving of gifts, decorating, and eating, how is Jesus celebrated? What can you do this Christmas to make sure the real message remains the focus.
4. **Pursuit** (vs 1-2, 9, 11) The Magi pursued the star until it led them to its revelation. The journey had an unknown end, covered a great distance, and involved risk. How does Christmas today involve a similar experience? Does Christmas cause you to seek Jesus more fervently? What can you do this Christmas to “pursue” the Savior more intently?
5. **Adoration** (v 11) The magi bowed and worship. What is the difference in celebration, mentioned above, and worship? In addition to public worship occasions, do you make sure you spend time in personal/family worship? What can you do this Christmas to increase the level of your adoration?

6. **Recipient** (v 11) The magi offered their gifts to Jesus. A lot is made about gifts during Christmas. Does our gift giving reflect the magi's intention? What are the gifts you have given to Jesus? What can you do this Christmas to make sure Jesus is the recipient of your best?

Closing: Close by sharing prayer requests.

Pray for each another and for the needs that were shared.

*Go anyway! As you go, **SHARE JESUS!***