

SOME PRE-CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Use the following Growth Group discussion questions to deepen your relationship with God, his Word and others. Growth Group Leaders: It is not necessary to use all the questions. Select or ask questions you like or that best fit your Growth Group.

BREAK IT OUT:

1. What do you find the most stressful about the Christmas season?
2. What stood out, made you think or was a new idea in Sunday's sermon?

TALK IT OUT: (MATTHEW 2:1-12)

3. How can we recognize the voice of God?
4. Would you say that you are actively listening and ready to obey regardless of how he answers? Why or why not?
5. How can you follow the example of the wise men in selecting valuable gifts? What gifts do you bring?
6. How are you currently asking God to guide you?

WORK IT OUT:

7. What do you need to apply a principle from the wise men: a) being open and listening to the Lord, b) showing reverence through your gifts, c) relying on the Lord, d) other?
8. How will your decision shape your life this week?

The Post-Christmas Story

December 27, 2015 • Pastor Robb Williams • *Matthew 2*

All of you high church people out there know today's Bible passage best under the title "Epiphany". The Christian celebration of epiphany has traditionally been celebrated on January 6 and is really not a direct part of the Christmas story. Epiphany (manifestation) commemorates the enlightenment of the wise man to the Christ child. It is the manifestation of God's salvation to the gentiles. Within this post-Christmas story of epiphany, we will learn some very practical lessons on how our relationship with the Lord should be.

1. **Be open to the Lord** - (*Matthew 2:9-11*). God communicates to us more than we listen for him.
2. **Show reverence to the Lord** - (*Matthew 2:11*) "...They bowed and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts..."
3. **Rely on the Lord** - (*Matthew 2:12*). We often ask God to reveal the whole journey while we ignore our simple first steps.

Application

Might there be one area we could specifically apply from a look at the wise men?

NEXT WEEK: Happy Re-New Year • *Matthew 28:19-20;*
Ephesians 4:15-16, 5:1-2