



LifeGroups

Share | Study | Serve | Support

SHARE (10 min.)

1. Do you like to travel? What do you like (or dislike) about it?
2. Read **Matthew 2:1-12**, and then **Numbers 24:16**; **Micah 5:2**, **Revelation 22:16**.
What stands out from this scripture(s) or the weekend sermon?
3. Matthew never says that there were three wise men, only three gifts. There may have been dozens of Magi who traveled to worship Jesus. Does this change your perception of this story at all?

STUDY (approx. 30 - 45 min.)

4. For the second time in Matthew, we see God speaking through a dream. And both times, these men seem to listen without pause! How does God speak to us today, and are we listening?

God speaks to us today through his word, through other believers, through spiritual promptings that are in line with his word, through circumstances, through silence and solitude and meditation on what's true, through creation. We can be more attentive by turning down the noise of this world, and even the glut of good things available to us.

5. Herod had a hostile reaction to Jesus. If we're honest, how can we be threatened by the Lord and what he's up to?

Jesus as King means I am not. There's a power struggle. I will be challenged to step off the throne of my life and let Jesus lead.

6. The religious leaders, strangely, had an indifferent response to Jesus' arrival. "Who cares?" How are we tempted to be lukewarm and lacklustre in our faith?

It's easy to get complacent, to rely on the past, to stay in our comfort zones, to stop learning and growing and pursuing the Lord.

7. In **Matthew 2:10-12**, we are told that the Magi were "overjoyed" when they arrived.
After meeting Jesus, what's the first thing that they do, and what can we learn from this?

They worship the father, King Jesus! Wow! All of life is about joyfully worshipping our glorious God.

8. Would joyful, reverent worship describe your life?

9. Read **Hebrews 11:6**; **Deuteronomy 6:4**; **Psalms 105:4**; **Romans 12:11**.
How are you challenged to most diligently pursue the Lord, like the Magi?

10. When I don't feel like pursuing the Lord, what should I do? How would you encourage me?
How do we inspire each other?

We recommend that you break up into men/women groups for deeper discussion and prayer.

GROUP PRAYER TIPS

LG Prayer Goes Best When:

1. **We Keep our Prayers Short and Simple.** Encourage group members to pray short “sentence prayers” that keep prayer moving and encourages greater participation. Long prayers can cause members to lose focus and intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud.
2. Instead of spending a lot of time on prayer requests, members can simply pray their requests (simple and short), and then others can join in prayer for that topic.
Members can pray more than once if they desire.
3. Also, it's important to try to focus the prayer time around the lesson topic and personal application, along with prayer for major needs.
4. The smaller groups of men/women will facilitate greater prayer participation in most groups.
5. Pray through the **P.R.A.Y.** acronym as a group
(You may consider either splitting into men and women's time for this, or doing it as a big group. There are advantages to both.)

Take about 3-5 minutes in each of the four categories (**Praise, Repent, Ask, Yield**).
Instruct group members to pray short, one-sentence “popcorn” prayers.

For example;

For Praise: “God, thank you for the work you're doing in our hearts.”

For Repentance:

“Father, I confess that I've been selfish lately; please cleanse me of this.”

For Yielding:

“Father, we submit to your will for our lives.”

Instruct group members that if they are not comfortable praying yet, that's okay!
Encourage them to just relax and listen to others pray.