

PRESENCE | WEEK 2

Date: December 4th, 2022

Verses: Matthew 2:1-12



SERIES INSIGHT

Presence is a series designed to help draw our attention, affection, and devotion to the person, the power and presence of Jesus. We want to have a great measure of encounter - some for the first time, some to see God as more ever present, for some to be motivated to tangibly share the presence of God, but for all of us that God's presence may become more tangible and rich in our lives - near, close, and with.

ICEBREAKER

- What is your favorite memory/tradition of the Christmas season?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Review the Message.** Looking back at your notes and upon reflecting on this weekend's message, what was your one takeaway from Sunday?
2. What does it look like for you to experience the "Presence of The Lord"? What does this mean to you?
3. Read Matthew 2:1-12. What has your "Journey with Jesus" revealed to you so far?
4. There is a clear theme of "Light piercing the Darkness" in this narrative. Read Philippians 2:14-15. Share when either yourself, or other Jesus followers have been "light" in a personal situation.
5. Matthew 2:12 says the Magi were changed, and chose to follow The Lord and not King Herod. When did you choose to "leave/stop something" in your life to follow Jesus?
6. It's all about the Presence of Jesus. Stop and reread that statement again. Reflect on what that means for a moment.

Sometimes focusing on the Presence of Jesus can be a hard thing for us to do. For the next few minutes (*recommend at least 10 minutes for this*), let's practice it! Consider spending that time in worship or prayer, or both. Spend time sitting and resting in God's presence.

- **Leader Note:** *This would be a great opportunity to have a worship playlist ready. Consider having people find a space around the room/house to engage in this time.*
7. Who are the people/families you need to invite to Grace this Christmas Eve?
 - Where are they on their journey? What role can you get to play in that journey?
 - How will you invite those people to join you this holiday season, or invite them to encounter God's presence this season?

PRAYER

- Allow people to share requests and celebrate any praise reports as well. Consider having someone write down the requests to share with the group. Take time to pray however long your group needs.



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