

**Sermon Discussion Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Church Sermon Series:  
Believe It – December 18, 2022**



*This guide is a supplement to the weekly sermon. We encourage families and groups to use it. When we hear God's Word, we need to do more than listen. The Bible says, "Be doers of the word, not hearers only (James 1:22)." **Step 1: GATHER** with your family or group. **Step 2: REVIEW** and **DISCUSS** the key points and scriptures from the sermon. **Step 3: PRAY** for the prayer requests shared by your family or group.*

**DISCUSSION STARTER**

Ask your group, "What is your understanding of why we give gifts at Christmas?" Ask, "What is one of the most meaningful gifts that has been given to you?"

**DIGGING DEEPER 1**

**Read Matthew 2:11-12.** Ask, "What 2 things did the Magi do that showed that they saw Jesus as a king and Messiah worthy of worship?" Ask, "What were the gifts that the Wise Men brought? And what were they used for?" Say, "God used the gifts of the Magi to provide for Joseph, Mary, and Jesus. The providential provision of God is incredible. The faithfulness and obedience of Joseph and Mary to go to Egypt was followed up by God providing for their needs. Ask, "What does this mean to us when it comes to our obedience and faithfulness to God?" Say, "Our obedience and faithfulness will always be followed by God's provision. Discuss the significance of the Magi's gifts (Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh) in relation to Christ?"

**DIGGING DEEPER 2**

**Read Matthew 2:13-14.** Ask, "How did God use the paranoia of King Herod to fulfill prophecy?" Say, "God's sovereign plans will always succeed. The story of Herod is sad. He had every opportunity to turn to the Lord. He had every opportunity to humble himself. He could have used his position to be a herald that the Messiah had arrived. But Herod was prideful. He refused to see the signs." Ask, "How does Joseph respond to the warning of the angel in his dream?" Say, "Joseph obeyed without delay. He left in the middle of the night. He did not roll over in bed and decide to get just a couple of more hours of sleep. Instead, he quickly gathered his family together and started walking while it was still dark." Discuss as a group how Joseph's obedience is a great example to us. Ask, "How should we respond when God commands us to do something?"

**DIGGING DEEPER 3**

**Read Matthew 2:15; Hosea 11:1.** Ask, "How is Moses and the exodus out of Egypt a foreshadowing of Christ?" Say, "God's people were set free from Egypt because they sacrificed a spotless lamb and covered their doorposts with the blood of the lamb. This event was a foreshadowing of what Christ would do for us at the cross as the perfect Lamb of God. The Egypt of the Exodus represented sin and separation from God. What began in Egypt was finally fulfilled with the true salvation (Jesus) coming out of Egypt."

**DOING THE WORD**

Say, "Everything we have, even our very being, must be devoted to God. Pray that we would all have the same humble attitude the Magi displayed when they bowed before Jesus. Ask, "What gift (physical, attitudinal or otherwise) do you want to give to Christ this Christmas as a gift of worship?" Say, "When we believe in Jesus we are then adopted as a child of God, and because we are now considered a child of God we are called out of Egypt, we are called out of a place of sin into a relationship with God (Romans 8:15). Close by thanking God for adopting us as His sons and daughters. Pray that we will be humble, obedient, and faithful to God's commands."