



CENTREVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2020
WEEK 3: JESUS ENCOUNTER
MATTHEW 2:9-12

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. Matthew 2:9-12

MESSAGE SUMMARY

This series looks at the Christmas story through the eyes of the Magi (or wise men) recorded in Matthew 2. This final of three messages completes the journey of the Magi to Jesus and why they changed their return route back to the East. This message also discusses different ways that God speaks to us today.

HOW GOD SPEAKS TO US TODAY - Bible, prayer, circumstances, the church/other believers

PASTOR'S POINTS

1. The three responses to the coming of Jesus have always been the same: hostility, indifference, and transformation.
2. A true encounter with Jesus will always result in a transformed life.
3. God always provides, even in the most difficult of circumstances.

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Celebrate Christ in Christmas this year.



WEEK 3: JESUS ENCOUNTER D-GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

GET TO KNOW YOU

Pastor Josh started by sharing his Six Stages of 2020 (Denial, Freak Out, False Hope, Summer Love, Apocalypse and Forging). Did you experience any of those stages? How?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. [From Week 2]: Were you more intentional to keep your eyes upon Jesus this past week? How did that impact your week?
2. Read Matthew 2:9-10. For the Magi, they were overjoyed with exceedingly great joy when they found Jesus. There is always joy in the journey. Although your journey with Jesus is far from over, what joy has Jesus brought to your life along the way?
3. Read Matthew 2:11. The Magi brought meaningful gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to Jesus. What was one of the most meaningful gifts you've ever given to someone or a meaningful gift that someone gave to you? What made it so meaningful?
4. Pastor Josh finished by sharing three general responses to the coming of Christ: hostility (King Herod), indifference (chief priests) and transformation (Magi). In your life or in the lives of those that you know, how have you seen these three responses lived out?
5. The Magi returned home a different route because they were warned in a dream. How has God primarily spoken to you? What are some instances where God spoke to you?
6. What else from the message stood out to you?

Finish your time together with prayer. If you would like Centre Church to pray for anything in particular for you, let your D-Group Leader know.

D-GROUP LEADERS INFORMATION

D-Groups are online, sermon-based discussion groups at Centre Church. Whether you're a lifelong member of Centre Church or a joining us online from around the world, D-Groups are your opportunity to *discuss* Sunday's message, *develop* your faith and grow as a *disciple* of Jesus.

WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES AS A D-GROUP LEADER?

There are four main things we ask you be responsible for as a D-Group Leader:

- 1. Lead the D-Group discussion.** Everyone should have watched (or heard) the message prior to the D-Group meeting and discussion questions are already provided. Your task is to facilitate the conversation, to make people feel welcome, to keep things flowing in the right direction.
- 2. Pray for your D-Group members by name daily.** During your time together, God can do mighty things in the lives of your D-Group members (and yours as well). It is your privilege to pray for your members by name daily, asking God to move mightily in their lives.
- 3. Identify and encourage a next step for your D-Group members.** Every person has a next step in their relationship with Jesus. Look for next steps your D-Group members might take in their faith and encourage them in those. Examples of next steps are listed in FAQs.
- 4. Connect your D-Group with Centre Church.** Centre Church wants to come alongside to strengthen and encourage your D-Group. If you haven't already, register your D-Group with Centre Church so that we can follow up with you, keep up with attendance through the links provided, and pass on any prayer requests and feedback to Centre Church staff for follow-up.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What online platform do I use to host the D-Group meeting? Whatever platform is the most comfortable for you to use. There are both paid (e.g. Zoom) and free (e.g. Google Hangouts) options available. Set up the meeting and share the link with your D-Group members. If you'd like to open up your D-Group, you can also publicize your group through Centre Church and we will provide a Microsoft Teams video link you can use for no charge.

How long does a D-Group last? D-Groups are designed to be short-term groups that last as long as the sermon series or Bible study lasts. These short-term groups allow people to meet new people and study new topics without a long-term commitment. If your D-Group wants to continue to meet after the series or Bible study is over, your group can convert to a Community Group, which is a long-term group that meets either online or in person.

What are some examples of next steps? A person surrendering their life to Jesus, getting baptized, becoming a church partner (member) at Centre Church, taking the Next Steps Track, giving financially, serving as a volunteer, meeting with a pastor, going on a mission trip.

What do I contact if I need help? If you have any questions or need some help with your D-Group, please contact abigail.parker@cbcva.org and she will get you the help you need!