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## How Can We Know? Matthew 2:1-6, 11:1-6

### I. Introduction: Celebrating God Incarnate

Once the Devil was walking along with one of his cohorts. They saw a man ahead of them pick up something shiny. "What did he find?" asked the cohort.

"A piece of the truth," the Devil replied.

"Doesn't it bother you that he found a piece of the truth?" asked the cohort.

"No," said the Devil, "I will see to it that he makes a religion out of it."<sup>1</sup>

1. In America today, it seems that there are three Christmas':

A. Estimates are that north of 80% of NON-Christians celebrate Christmas as a cultural event bridging ethnic, religious, economic, political, and other divisions. *These folks share in the joy of connecting with family and friends, the pleasures of gift giving/receiving, and having a sense of "belonging" to the culture at large.*

B. The second group are cultural Christians that, while identifying as Christians, are driven by the same motivations as NON-Christians.

C. The third group are those celebrating the birth of Christ. *It's not that this group does not also enjoy the blessings the two other groups experience...it's that this group's motivation is different. This group's purpose is pointing to and celebrating Christ.*

2. In considering these groups, I was struck with the truth that Christmas is a holiday for all people. *Some for celebration of hope*

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<sup>1</sup> Klyne Snodgrass, *Between Two Truths - Living with Biblical Tensions*, 1990, Zondervan Publishing House, p. 35.

already received and some for consideration of hope not yet realized or maybe NOT even considered.

3. The basic premise of Christmas is a celebration of God incarnate...that [as we considered last Sunday] God came to heal the sin-fractured relationship between Himself and His creation – mankind! And so, Christmas is NOT just a celebration, but it is an invitation into a personal relationship with the God whose birthday we are celebrating.
4. All of this by way of introduction to our focus today on How We Can Know that this Jewish baby born some 2,000 years ago is Messiah? The Jews say He was not, so how can we know that baby Jesus is the One, the Messiah. Maybe He is coming, but has NOT yet come. Maybe He came, but mankind missed Him?

So behind all the consumerism...behind all the cultural norms...behind the carols and cookies...behind the decorations and parties...behind the pageantry and sermons...IS IT TRUE, is the Jesus of the Bible really the One? I live my life as though it depends on this truth...and it does.

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## II. What today is NOT and What it IS.

1. I believe it important that you know what today is NOT. First, it is NOT an academic exercise addressing all available evidences. Next, it is also NOT an exercise to “prove” Jesus is Messiah for we come to that truth by grace through faith alone (Ephesians 2:8-9).
2. Few dispute that Jesus is a real historical figure. But what if that is all He was? What if He was only a good teacher, a prophet, or even a radical social figure? Of course, a Christian says He is the Living God, the Messiah (Jn 10:30; 8:58; Mk 14:61-62). How Can We Know?

3. Jesus Himself claimed to be the Messiah on numerous occasions, including for example **John 10:30** and **Mark 14:61-62**:

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I and My Father are one.” - John 10:30

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But He kept silent and answered nothing.

Again the high priest asked Him, saying to Him, “Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?”

<sup>62</sup> Jesus said, “I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.” – Mark 14:61–62

- A. In these and other similar claims, Jesus is unequivocally claiming to be Messiah. In *Mere Christianity*, C. S. Lewis popularized the saying that Jesus is either liar, lunatic, or Lord. I note this to emphasize the choice that lies before each of us...a choice that is made each and every day in our following Christ OR NOT!
4. As we look to answer this question, I pray we will (1) encourage and strengthen the believer, (2) offer a firm foundation for the skeptic to believe, and (3) maybe, just maybe, disarm the never-ending objections of the cynic.

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### III. Matthew 2:1-6, 16: Invitation Back in Time

1. Some 2,000 years ago, in a faraway nondescript outpost called Nazareth, a betrothed woman was pregnant, bringing shame upon her husband as they had not yet consummated their marriage. After an arduous walk/ride, they were in a strange town with no comfortable place to get much needed rest.
2. Coming into the world that day was another Jewish baby; a baby, the Christ, that was foretold of in **Micah 5:2** some 700 years earlier. It is hard to grasp that God came in the flesh, much less with no fanfare...Oh, as the Bible tells us and songs we sing remind us, Mary knew and Joseph new...a few shepherds knew...it seems some wise men knew, BUT the Jews widely did

NOT know, the Roman's did NOT know, the rest of the world did NOT know.

3. On that day, God came as a baby. A never before-or-since miracle. [Turn with me back in time 2,000 years ago in Matthew 2:1-6, 16:](#)

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Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

<sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

<sup>5</sup> So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
Are not the least among the rulers of Judah;  
For out of you shall come a Ruler  
Who will shepherd My people Israel.' "

<sup>16</sup> Then Herod...sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under...

- Matthew 2:1-6, 16

4. Some 30+ years later, Jesus' cousin and the forerunner of His ministry prophesied (Is 40:3; Mal 3:1), John the Baptist asked the same question we and so many others have asked since that day.

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In Matthew 11:1-3, we read:

Now it came to pass, when Jesus finished commanding His twelve disciples, that He departed from there to teach and to preach in their cities.<sup>2</sup> And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to Him, "**Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?**"

- Matthew 11:1-3

5. John knew his assignment and he knew the Messiah was coming.  
But locked in jail, the doubts crept in and he was wondering if Jesus was indeed, the One.
6. And from these (and many, many other) verses we see that the Jews could and should have been looking for their Messiah.

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#### IV. Establishing Jesus' Identity

1. Let's turn our attention to some of the 300 or so fulfilled OT prophecies that speak of the coming Messiah as a clear means of establishing that He is the One prophesied of and there can be no other.

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- A. The Messiah will be from the line of David (2 Sam 7:12-13 fulfilled in Mt 1:1; Luke 3:23-31) and the Messiah is a descendent of Abraham (Gen 12 fulfilled in Mt 1:1)

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- B. The Messiah will be born of a virgin (Is 7:14 fulfilled in Mt 1:22-23);

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- C. The Messiah will be born in Bethlehem (Mic 5:2 fulfilled in Mt 2:1-6);

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- D. The Messiah will be announced by a Messenger (Mal 3:1 fulfilled in Mt 3:1-3);

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- E. The Messiah will be found according to the star and the Scepter (Numbers 24:17 fulfilled in Mt 2:1-10)

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- F. The Messiah will be a suffering servant (Is 53 fulfilled in 1 Pet 2:24-25);

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- G. The Messiah will be from the tribe of Judah (Ge 49:10 fulfilled Lk 1:33);

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- H. The Messiah's body will be mutilated (Isa 52:14; Ps 22:17 fulfilled in Mt 27:26 and Jn 19:1);

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I. The Messiah will be crucified as a sin offering for the world (Is 53:4-6; 10-11 fulfilled in Jn 19:16-19);

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J. The Messiah would make NO effort to defend himself at trial (Is 53:7 fulfilled Mt 27:13-14);

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K. The Messiah's hands and feet would be pierced (Ps 22:18 fulfilled in Mark 15-25 with Jn 20:25-27);

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L. The Messiah would be counted among the lawbreakers (Is 53:12 fulfilled in Lk 23:32-33); and

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M. The Messiah's last words were prophesied (Ps 22:31 fulfilled in Jn 19:30).

2. Keep in mind that these are just a few of the fulfilled prophecies pointing to Christ as Messiah. In [Evidence that Demands a Verdict<sup>2</sup>](#), the McDowell's have quoted Peter Stoner's probabilities work from [Science Speaks](#) in an effort to overcome the happenstance argument in presenting irrefutable evidence that Jesus is Messiah.

Some of you may be familiar with at least part of his work:

- A. Looking at the probability that one man would fulfill just 8 of the prophecies, he concluded the chances were 1 in 10 to the 17th power. [If you wrote that out, it would look like this:](#)

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1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000.

- B. If you took that many silver dollars and scattered them across Texas, they would cover the state two feet deep. [Now take one of those dollars, mark it with a red X, and throw it at random in that pile of silver dollars.](#) Then blindfold a volunteer and ask him to find that marked silver dollar on his first try. [That's the same](#)

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<sup>2</sup> Evidence that Demands a Verdict, McDowell J, McDowell S., 2017, p231

odds that eight predictions about Christ could be fulfilled by chance.

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C. Stoner then went on to consider fulfillment of 48 of the prophecies and reports...meaning 1 in 10 to the 157th power or 1 followed by 157 zeros. Changing out the silver dollars for a smaller unit of the electron to better illustrate the probability of one man fulfilling the 48, Stoner notes that it would take  $2.5 \times 10^{157}$  to make a line of them 1" long. If you could count 250 electrons per minute, it would take you 19,000,000 million years to count just this one line.

Yet Christ fulfilled over 300 prophecies! To this body of evidence we add overwhelming evidence for His resurrection and evidence of the reliability of the Bible, along with other evidences as well. The conclusion being that it takes far more faith to believe that Jesus is NOT the Messiah than it does to believe He is.

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#### V. John 14:6: Truth as Evidence

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."  
- John 14:6

1. For the purpose of application, I think it helpful to bring in one more evidentiary line...that of Biblical truth. As we consider what the Bible teaches us about truth, please be reminded that Satan and our own depraved hearts are at constant war with God's truth.
2. Truth is the self-expression of God. Truth reflects reality. Truth is exclusive, non-contradictory, and trustworthy. While there is subjective or relative truth (claims that can change from person to person), Biblical truth is objective, universal, and absolute in reflecting reality across people groups, cultures, languages, governments, and time. Truth IS because God IS as truth is the self-expression of "I AM"...including how we are to relate to Him.
3. In all of these things, we can say both that truth is knowable and truth matters in the way we live our lives. It informs meaning,

purpose, direction, and motivations because truth is our destiny and is NOT simply a means to an ends.

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4. Go back to **Matthew 11** with me...this time to verses **4-6**:

Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> *The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them.* <sup>6</sup> And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me."  
- Matthew 11:4–6

- A. In Jesus' answer to John-the-Baptist, He is unmistakably presenting His authority and power in saying He IS THE WAY, TRUTH and LIFE – He IS the One! *We have gone here because truth demands something far greater than knowing that Jesus is exactly who He claims to be – that we can, indeed, know He is Messiah. Truth demands a personal response (and no response is a response)...of either accepting AND living one's life in TRUTH OR NOT.*
- B. It's your choice. Know and receive TRUTH in being restored to Christ or NOT. *Allow His victory to be your victory for every day of your eternal life, OR NOT.* The evidence is clear and compelling, Jesus is Messiah. *But so what, it makes NO difference if the truth does not set you free to live your life unto Him.*

[Prayer: SALVATION/REDEDICATION – (GROUP OR NOT, loved ones and the lost this Christmas season. For the strengthening of believers faith and for us to live it out in our remaining time here]



## **How Can We Know? Christmas 2025 Matthew 2:1-6, 11:1-6**

### **I. Introduction: Celebrating God Incarnate**

- Living as though our lives depend on Jesus.

### **II. What Today is NOT and What it IS.**

- To strengthen the believer, offer a firm foundation for the skeptic to believe, and overcome the cynics never-ending objections.

Additional Scripture References: Jn 10:30, 8:58; Mk 14:61-62

### **III. Matthew 2:1-6, 16: Invitation Back in Time**

Additional Scripture References: Mic 5:2; Mt 2:1-6, 16; Is 40:3; Mal 3:1; Mt 11:1-3

### **IV. Establishing Jesus' Identity**

- Only one fulfilled 300+ OT prophecies.
- It takes more faith to NOT believe Jesus is Messiah than it does to believe He is.

### **V. John 14:6: Truth as Evidence**

- Truth is the self-expression of God.
- Truth is knowable and it matters in the way we live our lives.

Additional Scripture References: Mt 11:4-6

## **5-Day Devotional**

### **How We Can Know? (Christmas 2025)**

#### **Matthew 2:1-6, 11:1-6**

##### **Day 1: The Question that Matters Most**

**Reading: Mt 11:1-6**

**Devotional**: Even John the Baptist, who had announced Jesus' coming, found himself wrestling with doubt from a prison cell. "Are you the one?" he asked. This honest question reminds us that doubt is not the opposite of faith—it's often the pathway to deeper conviction. Jesus didn't rebuke John's uncertainty; instead, He pointed to the evidence: the blind see, the lame walk, the gospel is preached.

When you find yourself questioning, bring those doubts directly to Jesus. He welcomes your honest inquiry and will meet you with evidence of His transforming power. Look for His fingerprints in your life today—where have you seen Him working?

##### **Day 2: Prophecy Fulfilled**

**Reading: Mic 5:2, Mt 2:1-6**

**Devotional**: Seven hundred years before Jesus' birth, the prophet Micah declared that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. This wasn't coincidence—it was divine orchestration. God doesn't leave us to wonder; He provides markers along the way. Over 300 Old Testament prophecies point unmistakably to Jesus as the promised Messiah. The mathematical probability of one person fulfilling even eight of these prophecies is astronomically impossible—unless that person is exactly who He claimed to be. God's Word is trustworthy because God Himself is trustworthy.

What promises from Scripture do you need to trust Him with today? His track record of faithfulness speaks for itself.

##### **Day 3: Truth in a Relativistic World**

**Reading: Jn 14:6, Jn 8:31-32**

**Devotional**: Jesus made an exclusive claim: "I am the way, the truth, and the life." In our culture that celebrates tolerance above all else, this statement offends. But truth, by its very nature, is exclusive. Two plus two cannot equal both four and five. Jesus isn't one path among many—He is the self-expression of God, the embodiment of reality itself. C.S. Lewis famously argued that Jesus is either liar, lunatic, or Lord; there is no middle ground for "good teacher." Truth demands a response. You cannot remain neutral about Jesus. Either His truth sets you free to live in restored relationship with God, or you reject it and remain in bondage. What is your response today?

**Day 4: The Suffering Servant****Reading: Is 53:1-12, 1 Pe 2:24-25**

**Devotional**: Isaiah's prophecy of the suffering servant, written centuries before crucifixion was even invented, describes Jesus' death with stunning accuracy. He was pierced for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities. The Messiah came not in political power but in sacrificial love. This is the scandal of Christmas—God entered our brokenness not to condemn but to heal the sin-fractured relationship between Himself and His creation. The baby in the manger was born to die, that we might live. His wounds have become our healing. His suffering has purchased our peace. How does understanding Christ's suffering change the way you approach your own pain? His scars remind us that God doesn't avoid our suffering—He enters into it.

**Day 5: Living in the Truth****Reading: Mt 2:11, Eph 2:8-9**

**Devotional**: The wise men didn't just acknowledge Jesus—they worshiped Him, offering their most valuable treasures. Knowing that Jesus is Messiah is not merely an intellectual exercise; it demands a life response. Truth without transformation is just information. You can know all the evidence, understand all the prophecies, and still miss the point entirely. The Devil himself knows Jesus is Lord. The question is: does that truth change how you live? Christmas is both celebration for those who have received hope and invitation for those who haven't yet considered it. Today, will you simply know about Jesus, or will you worship Him with your whole life? The choice—made fresh each day—is yours.

## **Small Group Study Guide**

### **How We Can Know? (Christmas 2025)**

#### **Matthew 2:1-6, 11:1-6**

**Opening Prayer:** Begin by asking God to open hearts and minds to His truth and to help group members engage honestly with the question of who Jesus is.

**Opening Question:** What are your earliest memories of Christmas? Which of the three groups mentioned in the sermon (non-Christians celebrating culturally, cultural Christians, or Christ-centered believers) best described your family's celebration growing up?

**Sermon Recap:** The sermon addresses the fundamental question: How can we know that Jesus is truly the Messiah? Using fulfilled prophecy, mathematical probability, and the concept of absolute truth, the message demonstrates that Jesus is exactly who He claimed to be—the promised Messiah. The sermon challenges us not just to know this intellectually, but to respond personally to this truth.

**Discussion Questions:** Did the Holy Spirit prompt any questions with you? Start with those.

1. Why do you think it's important to wrestle with the question "How can we know Jesus is the Messiah?" rather than just accepting it on blind faith?
2. C.S. Lewis said Jesus is either "liar, lunatic, or Lord." Why is it intellectually dishonest to say Jesus was just a "good teacher" or "moral example"?
3. Have you ever experienced doubt like John the Baptist did in Matthew 11:3? How did you work through it?
4. The sermon mentioned that Jesus fulfilled over 300 Old Testament prophecies. Which specific prophecy mentioned (virgin birth, birthplace, suffering servant, etc.) is most compelling to you personally? Why?
5. Discuss the probability illustration using silver dollars covering Texas two feet deep. How does understanding these odds affect your confidence in Jesus as Messiah?
6. Read Isaiah 53:4-6 together. How does this 700-year-old prophecy speak to you about God's intentional plan for salvation?
7. The sermon states: "Truth demands a personal response." What does it mean to not just know truth intellectually but to live in response to it?

8. In Matthew 11:4-6, Jesus points to His works as evidence. How have you personally experienced Jesus' power and authority in your own life?
9. The sermon mentions that "no response is a response." What areas of your life might you be avoiding a full response to Jesus' lordship?

**Key Takeaways:**

1. Jesus' identity as Messiah is historically verifiable through hundreds of fulfilled prophecies with astronomical mathematical improbability of chance fulfillment.
2. Truth is not relative but absolute, reflecting the nature of God Himself. Jesus claimed to be "the way, the truth, and the life."
3. Knowing Jesus is Messiah intellectually is not enough—truth demands a personal, life-altering response of faith and obedience.
4. Christmas is both celebration and invitation—for believers to rejoice and for seekers to consider the claims of Christ.
5. Doubt can coexist with faith—even John the Baptist questioned, and Jesus responded with evidence and grace.

**Practical Applications:** Query the group for applications first...you may explore one or more of those.

1. Study Deeper:

Research 3-5 additional Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah and their New Testament fulfillments. Journal about how this strengthens your faith.

2. Share Your Faith:

Identify one person in your life who is in the "cultural Christmas" or "cultural Christian" category. Pray for an opportunity to share why you believe Jesus is truly the Messiah. Use one or two prophecies as conversation starters.

3. Personal Inventory

Take honest inventory of areas where you know the truth about Jesus but haven't fully responded with obedience. Choose one area to surrender more fully to His lordship this week.

#### 4. Gratitude Practice

Each day this week, thank God for one specific aspect of Jesus' identity as Messiah (Savior, King, Suffering Servant, Prince of Peace, etc.) and reflect on what that means for your daily life.

**Closing Prayer:** Thank God for the gift of His Son and for the overwhelming evidence of His identity. Ask the Holy Spirit to help each person move from knowing to living in response to Jesus as Lord and Messiah.

## **Discussion Questions**

### **How We Can Know? (Christmas 2025)**

#### **Matthew 2:1-6, 11:1-6**

1. Which of the three Christmas groups described in the sermon best represents your current approach to the holiday, and what would it take to shift your motivation toward celebrating Christ more fully?
2. C.S. Lewis argued that Jesus must be either a liar, lunatic, or Lord. How does this trilemma challenge the common cultural view of Jesus as simply a good teacher or moral example?
3. John the Baptist, despite being chosen to announce the Messiah, still experienced doubt while imprisoned. What does his question to Jesus teach us about handling our own seasons of doubt and uncertainty?
4. The sermon mentions that Satan's strategy is to take a piece of truth and turn it into religion. How can we distinguish between authentic faith in Christ and religious practices that miss the heart of the Gospel?
5. With over 300 Old Testament prophecies fulfilled in Jesus, what does this level of specificity reveal about God's sovereignty and His desire for us to know Him with certainty?
6. Peter Stoner's probability calculations show astronomical odds against Jesus fulfilling even eight prophecies by chance. How does mathematical evidence like this strengthen or challenge your faith?
7. The sermon states that truth demands a personal response and that no response is still a response. What are the practical implications of remaining neutral or undecided about Jesus' identity as Messiah?
8. Jesus came into the world with little fanfare, born in obscurity rather than in a palace. What does God's choice to enter humanity this way reveal about His character and values?
9. The sermon emphasizes that truth is objective, universal, and absolute, reflecting reality across all cultures and times. How does this understanding of Biblical truth conflict with contemporary cultural views of relative truth?
10. Jesus told John the Baptist to look at the evidence of His works as proof of His identity. What evidence in your own life or the world around you confirms that Jesus is who He claims to be?

# **Dinner Conversation Starters**

## **How We Can Know? (Christmas 2025)**

### **Matthew 2:1-6, 11:1-6**

#### **1. Historical Accuracy and Faith**

The sermon highlights fulfilled prophecies about Jesus as the Messiah. As a family, discuss how historical evidence can impact faith. Do you think historical accuracy is essential for belief, or is faith more about personal experience and trust in God?

#### **2. The Purposes of Christmas**

The speaker mentions three groups of people celebrating Christmas—cultural celebrators, cultural Christians, and those who celebrate with Christ at the center. How does your family view and celebrate Christmas, and what does the holiday mean to you personally?

#### **3. Truth and Perception**

The sermon discusses objective truth as God's self-expression. How does your family understand truth in your daily lives? How do you differentiate between subjective personal truths and the absolute truth described in the Bible?

#### **4. Evaluating Evidence**

With references to statistical probabilities regarding Jesus fulfilling prophecies, talk about the role evidence plays in your family's belief systems. Do you rely more on empirical evidence or faith-based conviction in your spiritual life?

#### **5. Response to Truth**

The sermon urges a response to knowing Jesus as the Messiah. Consider discussing what it means for each family member to live their life in truth. How does accepting or not accepting this truth influence your daily actions and decisions?



# Family Conversation Guide for Children & Early Teens

## How We Can Know? (Christmas 2025)

### Matthew 2:1-6, 11:1-6

#### AGES 5-7: SIMPLIFYING THE MESSAGE APPLICATION POINTS

1. **Understanding Celebrations**: Explain that Christmas is not just about gifts but about celebrating Jesus' birthday and God's love for us.

*Discussion Questions*: What do you like most about celebrating a birthday, and how can we make Jesus' birthday special?

2. **Truth and Honesty**: Teach the importance of telling the truth, reflecting how God always tells the truth in the Bible.

*Discussion Questions*: Can you tell a time when being honest was hard? How did it make you feel to tell the truth?

3. **Being Kind Like Jesus**: Encourage simple, kind actions at home or school as a way to show Jesus' love to others.

*Discussion Questions*: How can you show kindness at school or Sunday School like Jesus would want us to?

#### AGES 8-12: BUILDING UNDERSTANDING APPLICATION POINTS

1. **Exploring Historical Context**: Discuss how Christmas is both a religious celebration and a historical event, reinforcing the importance of learning the story behind the holiday.

*Discussion Questions*: Why do you think it's important to celebrate Christmas as the birth of Jesus, not just as a time for gifts?

2. **Integrity in Relationships**: Emphasize the importance of being truthful and trustworthy with friends and family.

*Discussion Questions*: How do you think honesty impacts your friendships?

3. **Understanding Influence Online**: Guide them on how to find and share God-honoring and truthful content online.

*Discussion Questions*: What are good ways to share God-honoring messages with your friends online?

## AGES 11-15: DEEPENING THE CONNECTION APPLICATION POINTS

1. **Deepening Faith With Evidence**: Encourage exploration of the biblical and historical evidence for Jesus as more than just a historical figure but the Messiah.

*Discussion Questions*: How do you balance learning about Jesus as a historical figure and as your personal Savior?

2. **Authenticity in Social Settings**: Discuss how being true to one's Christian beliefs can positively influence social interactions.

*Discussion Questions*: What challenges might you face in showing your faith in social settings, and how can you overcome them?

3. **Online Discernment**: Teach the importance of critically evaluating online content and recognizing the difference between subjective opinions and objective truth.

*Discussion Questions*: How do you decide what is true or worthwhile to share on social media, and how might this reflect your faith in Jesus?

### **Tips for Parents**

- Be patient and listen: Give your child time to think and respond.
- Relate to everyday life: Use real-life examples and stories familiar to your child to make abstract concepts more tangible.
- Encourage questions: Let your son or daughter know it's okay to ask questions, even if things don't make sense right away.
- Share personal insights: Tell a personal story about a time you experienced these themes, adapting as needed for age appropriateness.

# **Family Conversation Guide for Gen Z**

## **How We Can Know? (Christmas 2025)**

### **Matthew 2:1-6, 11:1-6**

#### **1. Living as a Witness**

Biblical Application: Matthew 5:16 - "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Scenario: When engaging in group activities or clubs, demonstrate integrity and kindness that reflects your faith. Be open about your beliefs when appropriate, not in a confrontational way, but as part of your identity.

Action: Start a conversation about the deeper meaning of Christmas in your group and invite friends to a church event or Bible study.

#### **2. Truthful and Loving Communication**

Biblical Application: Ephesians 4:15 - "Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ."

Scenario: In dating and friendships, being open and honest about your values helps build stronger foundations. Encourage open discussions about beliefs and values early on.

Action: Set boundaries that align with your faith and discuss them with your friends or significant other to ensure mutual respect and understanding.

#### **3. Discernment and Influence**

Biblical Application: Philippians 4:8 - "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."

Scenario: As you create or consume content online, consider whether it aligns with biblical values. Be mindful of the potential influence your digital presence has on others.

Action: Use your social media platforms to share messages of hope, truth, and love, inspired by your faith. Consider participating in online Bible studies or faith-based discussion groups to strengthen your own beliefs and encourage others.