

LIFE GROUP GUIDE wb 3rd December 2023

Key passage Matthew 2:1-12

This Week's BIG IDEA: We enter advent this week. Traditionally the start of the church year. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We will spend the next three weeks looking at the visit of the Magi in Matthew 2:1-12. This week we focus on the first of the three gifts- Gold. We ask the key question; what difference does the Lordship of Christ make to our lives as believers?

Fixing our eyes on God

Listen to this great advent Carol. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WWj9sDXIT0A>
Spends some time considering the words and allowing them to stir prayers of praise and worship. Why not finish this time listening to the classic carol based on this passage?
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BaheOgdGKJQ>

Opening God's word

Read together Matthew 2:1-12

1. What patterns do you see in this passage? (think about the groups of three you find in the text)
2. "We three Kings of orient are..." These are the first words of the famous Carol based on this text. Who are the Kings actually mentioned in the text?
3. Compare the "Kingship" of Herod and Jesus – Why do you think Herod was so threatened by the birth of this new King?
4. Kingship is about authority and leadership. What do we learn about authority and leadership from the life of Jesus?
5. It is easy to see the Herod missed his opportunity to bring his rule under the rule of God. Where do we struggle to bring our lives under Christ's authority?

Time to pray

Christmas, though heavily commercialised, is still a time when peoples thoughts turn towards the birth of a child. It is perhaps the easiest time to engage in a conversation about our faith and the church. Spend some time praying for opportunity to talk about Jesus in our neighbourhoods, our workplaces and amongst our friends and family. Pray specifically about those you might invite into your home this Christmas and/or to one of the Christmas events in your venue.