



# Welcome!

**SERIES: DON'T MISS CHRISTMAS**  
*Today's Message: The Journey We Take*  
**Dr. Lance D. Watson, Senior Pastor**

**PRAYER:** Holy God, you cover us with love and faithfulness. You come among us in Christ child of Christmas—the Word made flesh, your unimaginable gift to the entire world. Through Christ and Christmas, you keep calling forth the very best from us. Empower us now with expectation as we journey towards Christmas. By your Spirit, strengthen us and guide us in deep commitment toward justice and peace following Christ our Lord. In his name, we pray. Amen.

**ICEBREAKER:** What is the longest car journey you have ever taken? Share your experience with the group.

**MESSAGE RECAP:** The Magi in the Christmas story had only “a rumor” to go on. But that rumor moved them to make the long journey in search of this Savior. The Magi are in stark contrast to the scribes in Jerusalem. The scribes were much better informed. They were experts on the Scriptures. But none of that made them even move. The scribes just sat there with all this access, knowledge, proximity, and more. Yet the Magi risked the journey with openness and attentiveness in their hearts, with gifts in their hands, with worship as their motive. What about you? What is the journey you take towards Christ and Christmas this year?

**SCRIPTURE:** Read St. Matthew 2:1-12 (NIV)

## **DISCUSSION:**

1. **What was your biggest takeaway from the message?** What's one thing you learned? What questions came to mind as you listened to the message today? What points did you find most insightful? How did the message challenge you?
2. The message focuses on “the journey we take” to find the Christ child. In your faith journey, how would you describe your journey? Would you say that you searching or following? If the answer is both, when might you search and when might you follow?
3. When have you witnessed something or experienced something that changed you forever? Perhaps when you held a child in your arms? Perhaps when you lost a parent, spouse, or child to illness? Maybe when you met your spouse or when you bought/sold your home? When you received an answer to prayer?
4. Have you ever been surprised by someone unexpected doing something special, honorable, important, brave, or the like? How did that make you perceive/feel/think about that person after that?



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5. Notice and contrast the locations described in Matthew 2. What does the birthplace of Jesus say about him? About his ministry? About his kingdom? What do you think might be the definition of “kingdom” if the king is from Bethlehem vs. Jerusalem?
6. The wise men (or magi) ask for “one born king of the Jews.” What is remarkably odd about the reaction they receive to their request? What does it mean that only non-Jews used this language to describe Jesus? If you think it is because a third-party often has a clearer picture, what does that mean for us?

**CHALLENGE:** What is one “a-ha” moment you had in our group discussion today. Note it and write it down. If you applied your learning from this week’s message, how would the next week be different for you?

**SERVE:** How is God calling us to live out this message this week? As individuals? As a group?

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Take this time to share group announcements. Church wide and campus specific announcements can be found at [www.myspbc.org](http://www.myspbc.org). You can also “find, follow and like” our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/myspbc](http://www.facebook.com/myspbc). Turn on your notifications.

**CELEBRATIONS:** Take this time to share praise reports (e.g., answered prayers, birthdays, anniversaries, promotions).

**PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAYER:** Take this time to share prayer requests. Close with prayer.

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## We Care!

A large, solid red heart is positioned behind the text 'We Care!', with the heart's center overlapping the letter 'e'.

NOTICE: PLEASE BE PATIENT AS WE GRADUALLY REOPEN OUR CAMPUSES IN THE SAFEST MANNER POSSIBLE. As a small group leader, we depend on you to show members that we care. Here's a list of resources to help you.

### FOR PRAYER:

CALL: 804.463.2472  
EMAIL: [prayer@myspbc.org](mailto:prayer@myspbc.org).

### TO REQUEST A HOSPITAL VISIT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (For Emergencies)  
EMAIL: [ecare@myspbc.org](mailto:ecare@myspbc.org).

### TO FIND A SUPPORT GROUP:

CALL: 804.643.6177  
EMAIL: [Barnabas@myspbc.org](mailto:Barnabas@myspbc.org).

### TO CONTACT MY LIFE STAGE PASTOR:

CALL: 804.643.4000 and Press 1 for the Dial By Name Directory

### EMAIL:

- Imagination (0-10): Vernita Williams: [Vernita.Williams@myspbc.org](mailto:Vernita.Williams@myspbc.org)
- SMB (11-19): Martina Jones-Smith: [Martina.Jones-Smith@myspbc.org](mailto:Martina.Jones-Smith@myspbc.org)
- Dreamchasers (20-29): Juan Shackelford: [juan.shackelford@myspbc.org](mailto:juan.shackelford@myspbc.org)
- Aspire (30-39): Lance Watson, Jr.: [lance.watsonjr@myspbc.org](mailto:lance.watsonjr@myspbc.org)
- Fusion (40-49): Michelle Townsend: [michelle.townsend@myspbc.org](mailto:michelle.townsend@myspbc.org)
- Encore (50-59): Jamie Duncan: [Jamie.Duncan@myspbc.org](mailto:Jamie.Duncan@myspbc.org)
- Prime Time (60-69): Maceo Freeman: [maceo.freeman@myspbc.org](mailto:maceo.freeman@myspbc.org)
- Refiners (70+): Roscoe Jones: [roscoe.jones@myspbc.org](mailto:roscoe.jones@myspbc.org)

### FOR COUNSELING:

CALL: 804.643.6177  
EMAIL: [Barnabas@myspbc.org](mailto:Barnabas@myspbc.org)

### TO REQUEST FUNERAL SUPPORT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (Pastor On Call)  
EMAIL: [ecare@myspbc.org](mailto:ecare@myspbc.org).

### TO REQUEST EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE:

CALL: 804.643.4000  
EMAIL: [emergencyassistance@myspbc.org](mailto:emergencyassistance@myspbc.org).

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GPS is a study guide based on the weekend message. The purpose of this guide is to assist small groups in study.  
Previous GPS Guides are available online at [www.myspbc.org](http://www.myspbc.org).