

Life Group Discussion Guide

Advent

December 5

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Eve at ALC

Join us at one of our campuses as we celebrate Christmas together!

Happy Valley: Dec 23rd, 4PM & 6PM | Dec 24th, 2PM, 4PM, & 6PM

Sandy: Dec 24th, 4PM & 6PM

Vancouver: Dec 24th, 4PM

LEADER NOTES

Each campus got to hear from their very own campus pastor this week as we continued our Advent series with a message on love. It was a great reminder that while we might look to the world around us for love, only the love of God will last. God is inviting each us to experience His sacrificial love in a fresh way and share it with others this season.

THIS WEEK'S TEXT

Matthew 2:1-12 (NIV)

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: ⁶ "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel." ⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." 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.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?

LOOK UP

The magi travelled a long distance to worship Jesus, the messiah. They are the only people in this story who are not from Judah. What does their inclusion in the story reveal about the kind of kingdom Jesus came to establish?

LOOK AROUND

The magi traveled a great distance to be present with Jesus and give him gifts of incredible value. This reflects the love of God, which is characterized by sacrifice and presence. Share a time when someone demonstrated sacrificial love to you.

1 John 4:16 speaks of relying on the love of God. Are there other loves that you are relying on for your security, comfort, or enjoyment? If so, what would it look like for you to shift your focus toward the love of God?

LOOK AHEAD and PRAY

Who is God specifically calling you to love this Christmas season? It may be a neighbor, family member, or friend you've lost touch with. What will it look like to show them the love of God this season?

Pray together that God would give you opportunities to rest in His love and share it with others around you.