



Sermon Discussion Questions

"When You Follow A Star and Find A Stable"

Matthew 2:1-12

January 8, 2017

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Opener:

Have you ever had a major "aha" moment or epiphany (when there was something previously unknown to you and all of a sudden you gained insight or made a discovery)?

Group Interaction: [The following material is meant to supplement the sermon, to offer further points of interaction with the selected text. Also, feel free to discuss your own questions regarding the sermon or text.]

Read the following quote and share your thoughts using the below questions as a guide:

No doubt about it: as a class [typically], churches have been better at giving answers than they have been at receiving questions. [Christian education] classes and Sunday School sessions, well-taught as they may have been, have been churning out routine answers to routine questions at regular age levels for eons. [However], the very age at which most people outgrow [Christian education] classes is exactly when they begin to grow into spiritual [perplexities] that are the essence of adulthood. The old answers begin to thin a bit. J. Chittister, *Uncommon Gratitude* [p.13]

1. What part of the quote resonated with you? How has its assertion been true or not in your own faith?

2. Read again Matt 2:1-12:

a. In the story, there are two different responses to the news of Jesus' birth: (1) Herod's response was one of fear and skepticism; (2) the response of the wise men was fitting to their profile: they were interested, they wanted to find answers to their questions, they were seekers of truth.

When have you experienced both of those responses in your faith journey?

Which category would you say you are more in right now?

b. Share an experience from your past when a full faith in God was hard for you, one that you were able to overcome and learn from?

c. What are any obstacles to faith and following Jesus that you have to contend with? Doubt? Negative experiences with other Christians?

What was helpful in navigating the obstacles?

Did God show you any personal growth from the experience and if so, what was it?

Prayer Application:

Read, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen (Heb 11:1)."

Pray together as a group that God would give you an "aha," insightful understanding of his love for you and your group early in this new year. Move forward this week expecting an aspect of Jesus' love, newly discovered.

*These questions were adapted from an Epiphany study guide from Christian Church Buckhead: storage.cloversites.com/christianchurchbuckhead