GROUP DISCUSSION

December 13, 2020

MY CHRISTMAS GIFT Unusual Gift Matthew 2:1-12 Pastor Tim Griesbach Tim.Griesbach@crossroadsabc.com



NOTES	GROUP DISCUSSION 1. Open with prayer. (2-5 min) 2. Share your story What's the most symbolic gift you've ever given of received? (7-10 min) 3. Discuss these questions with your group. (20-45 min) 4. Read Matthew 2:1-12
	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, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." (Matthew 2:1-2)
	Why is it significant that God is announcing the birth of Jesus to <i>Gentile</i> wise men?
	When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethle hem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: (vs. 3-5)
	Herod and the people of Jerusalem were troubled at the news of the Wise Men. What troubles some people today about what Jesus represents?
	"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel." (vs. 6)
	What is unique about a ruler who is also a shepherd?
	Opening their treasures, [the wise men] offered him [the baby Jesus] gifts . [which included] myrrh. (vs. 11)

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

What is the one important thing you will take away from this weekend's message or our community group discussion? Is there any challenge, difficulty or praise that you would like to share with the group for prayer?

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PLAN OF ACTION

What could the gift of myrrh represent?

God gave the wise men a sign that compelled them to seek out Jesus and to give Him gifts. Bring a symbolic gift to Jesus this week as an act of worship. What gift does God want to give to you this holiday season?