

GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY

By John Piper

Week 2 Small Group Questions

December 8th-15th

December 8

BETHLEHEM'S SUPERNATURAL STAR

Matthew 2:2 (ESV) ²saying, “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.”

What things might we have what Piper calls a “mentality for the marginal” for during the Christmas season? Why do we get so easily distracted by them?

December 9

TWO KINDS OF OPPOSITION TO JESUS

Matthew 2:3 (ESV) ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him

How are people indifferent or hostile towards Jesus during this time of the year? Do you have a friend, family member, or co-worker who is either disinterested or disturbed by Jesus Christ? How does this story help you reach out to them?

December 10

GOLD, FRANKINCENSE, AND MYRRH

Matthew 2:10-11 (ESV) ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

What might you give up during this Advent season to help intensify your desire for Christ?

December 11

WHY JESUS CAME

Hebrews 2:14-15 (ESV) ¹⁴Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

In your own words, how would you use Hebrews 2:14-15 to tell someone about the meaning of Christmas?

December 12

REPLACING THE SHADOWS

Hebrews 8:1-2 (ESV) ¹Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, ²a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man.

How is our celebration of the birth of Jesus a shadow of things to come?

December 13

THE FINAL REALITY IS HERE

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The last paragraph on page 28 describes the persons of the Godhead relating to each other in such a way, that their very character is revealed in a “redeemed people.” What are some practical ways these six characteristics can be demonstrated in our relationships as we celebrate Christmas?

December 14

MAKING IT REAL FOR HIS PEOPLE

Hebrews 8:6 (ESV) ⁶But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises.

In what ways do we see people transformed inwardly to do God’s will in the Christmas story?

December 15

LIFE AND DEATH AT CHRISTMAS

John 10:10 (ESV) ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

Are there losses you try to block out at Christmas? How would your Christmas be different if you embraced that loss as Piper describes here?