



DIGGING DEEPER

Bring Your Gifts | 12.10.17

This study guide is designed to help you dig deeper into the weekend message and apply it to your life. The questions below are meant to encourage thoughtful reflection, discussion, and prayer for you, and your group. If you missed the message (or want to hear it again) go to fopc.org/sermon or download the Fair Oaks Church App.

PRAY [Have someone open in prayer.]

MESSAGE SUMMARY

This week at Fair Oaks Church we continued our new Advent series *Come to Worship*. We looked at what it means to come to worship Jesus, specifically through the bringing of our gifts.

KEY SCRIPTURE [Read aloud]

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 have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: 'But you, Bethlehem, *in* the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler who will shepherd My people Israel.'" Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found *Him*, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also." When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. **Matthew 2:1-11**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you from this weekend's message or key scripture?
2. What are the ways our culture has hijacked Christmas in your opinion?
3. Read Matthew 2: 1-11 together. The Magi were prompted by God to follow the star that led them to Jesus. Is there a person in your life who has been your "star in the east"?
4. The Magi met two kings: Herod and Jesus. How were their experiences different?
5. In what ways were their gifts both practical and providential?
6. Besides giving tangible gifts, they presented themselves to God in worship. Why was this pleasing to God? (Romans 12:1)
7. How does this story and this season encourage your generosity? What practical ways will you be generous this season?

PRAY [Close your time in prayer. Allow time to pray for any needs in your group.]

Close your time by asking God to help you and your group to continue to grow in your ability to live a lifestyle of worship and to raise your hands in worship to God more freely.