

Transition:

According to the biblical timeline, roughly 4,000 years have passed by since Adam was created. The time that passes between the final prophet (Malachi) and the birth of Jesus (Matthew) is roughly 400 years – known as the “years of silence.” Imagine if your parents and their parents and their parents had all told you that, one day, God was going to provide a Savior. If the Messiah was born during *your* lifetime, and you were close by, how would you respond?

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) the best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why was King Herod and all Jerusalem troubled?
2. Do you think the Wise Men did the right thing by deceiving the King?
3. Is there significance to the specific gifts the wise men brought?

Fundamental:

Worship – take a look specifically at verses 2,10-11. Worship has many Greek and Hebrew words. Most of them mean: to bow down, to kiss, fall upon the knees and touch the ground with the forehead, to revere, stoop, crouch, serve, glory, praise, honor, devotion.

1. What does it mean to worship? (Josh 5:13-14; Neh 8:6; Ps 95:6)
2. If “to worship” means “to bow”, does it have to be physical? Can we “bow” through our attitude and other actions? (Mark 12:41-44; Luke 7:36-50; Acts 16:24-26; Rom 12:1)
3. If you have been in church, we typically equate worship with music – should we?
*Take a moment to explain to the group how every action of every day can be devoted to worship.
4. Is God alone worthy of worship? (Matt 4:10; Acts 10:25-26; Rev 22:8-9)

Homework/Challenge:

1. How does this story change your view of worship? Take some time this week and worship the Lord alone for an hour straight. Consider bowing down during Sunday service. Ask God to reveal any wrong motivation/attitude that is in you (Ps 139:23-24).
2. Please read Matthew 3 in preparation for next week.

Discipleship Tip:

Consider switching up the “worship time” in your small group if you have only done music/singing.

Prayer:

Pray that the men in your group will lead the way in worship within their family.

Extras:

How to Worship a King by Zach Neese