



ALWAYS ANOTHER WAY

12.14.2014

MATTHEW 2:3-12

www.eastridgechurch.org/grow/sermons

STUDY QUESTIONS

USE THESE QUESTIONS IN YOUR COMMUNITY GROUP TIME TO DIG DEEPER AND DISCOVER HOW YOU CAN APPLY TODAY'S MESSAGE TO EVERYDAY LIFE.



INTRODUCTION

Most of us don't like surprises or the unexpected, yet we worship a God who is so vast, so full of possibilities and of imaginative ways to touch our lives. We have to ask: Why should we expect to be surprised with the unexpected by a God like that?

More to the point: What if doing the unexpected and making changes in our plans is the only way for him to save us? A lot of people don't believe in God because he doesn't act the way they would expect him to act... at least from a human viewpoint.

According to the biblical account of Jesus coming to earth, over the top joy is found in the *surprise*. When you fully realize what Jesus is up to on your behalf, and that he is continually offering you a way through and over life that you never could have come up with on your own -- well, you can't help but *get all tingly inside* -- to quote the Grinch.

At least...for Christians, that's the way it's supposed to be.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When was the last time something happened (to you, in your life, or that you observed) where you were pretty sure it was the work of God, but was totally unexpected?
2. **Read Matthew 2:3-12 together again.**
 - a. What strikes you most about the work of God in these verses? If you're in Herod's court, or a magi, how obvious is God's presence?
 - b. What does this tell us about our perspective as to whether God is at work in our lives, or on behalf of our lives, right now?
3. **Now read Hebrews 10:19-25 together.**
 - a. These verses are loaded for sure, but from an overview, what do they say about the "other way" Christ provides for us every day?
 - b. What do they say about how we can help each other recognize the work of God in our lives?
4. Would you say that, over the course of a normal day, you are aware of God and his presence and work in your life? In an average guesstimate, how often does he come to mind a day?
5. Do you remember a time when God opened a door or provided a way for you when you thought there wasn't one?
6. How can the people of your group be praying for you, and help you discover those "other ways" God promises to provide (ex. 1 Corinthians 10:13)? How can you be praying for each other this week as you look for the joy that comes from realizing the extent to which Jesus has provided a way out of your sin and the fallen world that would otherwise have you stuck?

MOVING FORWARD

He's here, and he has provided a way. He has provided the truth you need to live. And he's provided his Spirit to help you. Give yourself at least 5 minutes this week (in front of the Christmas tree, in a quiet place, where ever you have few distractions) to contemplate what Jesus has already done, and what this season means. See if you don't have the same reaction as the wise men when they saw the star move, and finally found him.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

"...walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us..." Ephesians 5:2

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