



Small Group Guide: Born a King

Sermon Series: Advent - The Gifts of the Wise Men

Scripture Focus: Matthew 2:1-12

Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by inviting God's presence and asking Him to speak to your hearts as you discuss His Word.

Icebreaker Question

What is the most difficult gift you've ever had to buy for someone? Why was it so challenging?

Key Takeaways

1. **Jesus was born a king, not made one** - His kingship is eternal and not dependent on circumstances or human recognition.
2. **The Incarnation is God's ultimate expression of love** - The King of creation humbled Himself to become a child so He could rescue us.
3. **We must choose our response** - Like the wise men or Herod, we either bow in worship or resist His authority in our lives.
4. **Jesus claims both the title and role of King** - He has absolute authority over all creation and will judge every person.
5. **Every knee will bow** - Whether we acknowledge Him now or not, all will eventually recognize Jesus as Lord.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

1. Read Matthew 2:1-12 together. What details stand out to you about the wise men's journey and their response to finding Jesus?
2. Why do you think the wise men brought gold specifically? What does this gift communicate about who Jesus is?
3. How does the contrast between Herod and the wise men illustrate different responses to Jesus's kingship?

Personal Reflection

4. The sermon asked: "What kind of king allows himself to be born a child?" How does Jesus's willingness to humble Himself impact your understanding of His character?
5. Are there areas of your life where you find yourself wrestling with Jesus for control of the throne? What makes it difficult to surrender those areas?
6. The Ark of the Covenant was made of wood overlaid with gold—a picture of deity wrapped in humanity. How does this image help you understand the Incarnation?

Application

7. The sermon mentioned that we're forced to make a decision—to fall in line with Herod or the wise men. What does it practically look like in daily life to "bow down" to Jesus as King?
8. How can remembering that Jesus is King bring comfort during difficult seasons when we wonder if God knows or cares about our struggles?
9. What would change in your life this week if you truly lived as though Jesus has "absolute authority over all creation"?

Going Deeper

10. Read Philippians 2:5-11. How does Paul's description of Jesus's humility and exaltation challenge or encourage you?
11. The sermon stated that Jesus claims kingship over "not just the minute things of our day, but the magnitude of our souls and our lives." What does it mean for Jesus to be king over both the small and large aspects of your life?

Practical Applications

Choose one or two of these applications to focus on this week:

Personal Worship

- Spend time each day this week reflecting on one aspect of Jesus's kingship. Journal about what it means for Him to be King over your relationships, finances, time, fears, or future.

Surrender Practice

- Identify one specific area where you've been sitting on the throne instead of Jesus. Write a prayer of surrender, asking Him to be King over that area. Share this with a trusted friend for accountability.

Advent Reflection

- As you encounter Christmas busyness this week, pause when you feel overwhelmed and remind yourself: "The King of creation humbled Himself for me." Let this truth slow your heart and reorient your priorities.

Worship Response

- Listen to "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" or "We Three Kings" this week. Let the words sink deeply into your heart as a prayer of worship.

Conversation Starter

- Share with someone this week (believer or non-believer) about what makes Jesus different from other religious leaders—that He claimed to be King and demonstrated it by humbling Himself to save us.

Memory Verse

Philippians 2:9-11

"For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Looking Ahead

Next week we'll explore the second gift of the wise men. Consider reading ahead in Matthew 2 and reflecting on what the other gifts (frankincense and myrrh) might signify about Jesus's identity and mission.