

Advent – Homeless by choice Matthew 2: 1 – 12

Advent a time for remembering

After Jesus was born ... Magi from the east came to Jerusalem

- Tales of the unexpected – God is sovereign, God reaches out to all sorts
- Magi, wise men probably from Persia. Three costly gifts!
- Men who willingly gave up the comforts of home to worship.
- Men who didn't give up – Men who were open to listening and learning
- Wisdom – the right thing at the right time in the right way.
- A Saviour worshipped by shepherds and magi.
- Herod – You go and search carefully for the child.

Advent a time for reflection

- God is able to do more than we can ask or imagine. In what ways do I live by sight not by faith?
- To what extent am I willing to give up comfort and security
- The wise men were willing to listen and learn. Am I teachable?
- They brought gifts and worshipped. Where is my heart?

Advent a time to re-affirm

- My trust in God's ability to work beyond my imagination
- My willingness to continue to listen and learn from God
- My hearts desire to give and worship.

Digging Deeper

Read Matthew 2: 1 - 12

1. What contrasts do we see between Herod and the Magi?
2. The chief priest and teachers of the law knew the answer to Herod's question. Why didn't they do anything? What is the danger in having just knowledge?
3. Read Numbers 24:17 What do we find here that links with the Magi's understanding of what the star meant? How does an understanding of the whole Bible help us recognise the character and nature of God?
4. God is able to do more than we can ask or imagine. In what ways do we live by sight and not by faith?
5. To what extent are we willing to give up comfort and security? How can we help one another grow increasingly into being a people of faith?
6. The wise men were willing to listen and learn. Are we teachable, or do we think we know enough to get by?
7. They brought gifts and worshipped. Where is our heart?