

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, December 24, 2006

Passage: Matthew 2:13-23

Memory Passage: 1 John 5:12-13

TODAY: *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Matthew 2:1-12.** What evidence of a supernatural birth is found in this chapter (review)?
- (b) What evidence is there that this birth is a fulfillment of O.T. prophecy? Why would the supernatural and the prophecies be confirmations of Jesus as Messiah?
- (c) What problem did the birth of Jesus create for the nation of Israel? How does Herod attempt to resolve this problem? How does God intervene in Herod's plans?
- (d) What is the response of the Magi? How does their response indicate faith?
- (e) Based upon what you learned from the responses of the magi, what is faith? What is the connection between faith and obedience (Hebrews 11:8)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Matthew 2:1-12 and Hebrews 11:8. Talk about biblical faith. What is the basis for faith? How is this seen in this chapter? What does the faith of the magi teach us about persistence in faith? What do the magi teach us about obedience and faith? Pray that your faith might be rooted in God's revelation and obedient to everything God commands.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Matthew 2:13-15.** What additional problem arises? How does God resolve this problem? How does this resolution fulfill a prophecy also?
- (b) How did God speak to Joseph? Compare this with Matthew 1:20; 2:19. Did God ever speak to men this way in the NT (Acts 10:7; Acts 27:23)?
- (c) Read this prophecy in Hosea 11:1. What did it first refer to? Why did God love Israel (Deuteronomy 7:7)? How does God describe His choice of Israel in Ezekiel 16:1-6? How does it describe God's choice of us?
- (d) How is this prophecy connected to the coming of the Messiah? Who led Israel in this deliverance from Egypt? What title is Jesus called by in this prophecy?
- (e) *Family:* Read Matthew 2:13-15 and Ezekiel 16:1-6. Discuss *how* God reveals Himself and His will? What way is the most common? What way is the easiest to understand and be sure about (2 Peter 1:19-21)? Read Ezekiel 16:1-6 and talk about the picture of God's calling that is given there. Why does God call us? Pray for someone today that needs direction from God.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Matthew 2:15 again.** How does God refer to Jesus through this prophecy that Matthew applies to him? What evidence of his pre-existent sonship do we see in Psalm 2?
- (b) In John 9:35-41, what question does Jesus ask the man born blind? How does the man respond (John 9:38)? What does this tell you about who Jesus was claiming to be?
- (c) What did the Jews understand about Jesus' claims to be the Son of God (John 19:7; John 5:18; John 8:58-59)?
- (d) How is Jesus uniquely the Son of God? Consider these verses: John 6:38; John 17:4-5; and John 6:38.
- (e) Why did John write his gospel (John 20:31)? What two titles does he use for Jesus? What does this say about who Jesus is?
- (f) *Family:* Read John 9:35-41 and John 20:31. What does it mean for Jesus to be the Son of God? How is Jesus uniquely God's son? Why did this title upset the Jews so much? How did people (like the man born blind) respond when they realized that Jesus was the Son of God? Pray that some might see Jesus, not as a baby in the manger, but as the Son of God.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Matthew 2:16-18.** What does Herod do to insure that his kingship remains unchallenged? How is this a fulfillment of the prophecy in Jeremiah?
- (b) How does Herod determine which children to kill? What does this tell us about how old Jesus probably is at this time (also Matthew 2:7)?
- (c) What did Jeremiah's prophecy in chapter 31 originally refer to? What is the connection between the last Davidic king before the exile and the birth of Jesus (also see Matthew 1:11, 17)?
- (d) Read Isaiah 40:1-11. How does God tell Isaiah to speak to Jerusalem? Why is their sorrow to be comforted?
- (e) Who is this one that is spoken of in Isaiah 40? Why is this comfort often connected to the birth of Christ?
- (f) *Family:* Read Matthew 2:16-18 and Isaiah 40:1-11. Was the first Christmas a great occasion for everyone? Explain why some sorrowed at the time of the birth of Jesus. What can we do for those who sorrow at Christmas time (James 1:27)? Pray for someone that might be experiencing great sorrow when everyone else is rejoicing over the birth of Jesus.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Matthew 2:19-23.** How does Jesus come to settle in Nazareth? What are the supernatural elements in this decision and the natural (rational) elements?
- (b) Does God often lead and fulfill His will through both ways? Why is this important? What excesses will we avoid if we understand this?
- (c) There have been many suggestions for the meaning behind Matthew 2:23. Read Numbers 6:1-21. Why might this be what was spoken by the prophets? Why might it not be? Also consider Matthew 11:18-19—why else could this not be the meaning?
- (d) Read Isaiah 11:1. What is the Messiah called here? Could this be what the prophets referred to? Does Jesus fulfill this?
- (e) Read John 1:43-46. Why might Phillip be saying this? What did John tell us about His coming in John 1:11-13?
- (f) *Family:* Read Matthew 2:19-23. Talk about what it might have been like for Jesus to grow up in Nazareth. What was the significance of him being from Nazareth? What do we know about his growing up (Luke 2:50-51)? Pray for someone who does not believe. Pray for an opportunity to share the real purpose of Jesus' coming with someone this week.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Matthew 2:13-23. What does it mean for Jesus to be called the “Son of God?” Why did this cause just trouble in Jerusalem? What was prophesied about this king in Micah 5:2? What does this tell us about who this king was? How did the Magi respond to the coming of this king? Pray for your worship services tomorrow that Jesus might be worshipped as the Son of God!

DATE: December 24, 2006

PASSAGE: Matthew 2:13-23

The Son of God

“Out of Egypt I have called my son.”