

Dig Deeper @Home – “Awe and Wonder”

Complement to lesson on 12/11/22 – “Threatened”

ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. What’s your favorite Christmas movie?
2. If you were king, what would be the first law you would pass?

MEMORIZE – Matthew 1:21

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

READ – Matthew 2: 13-23

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. Re-scan the text and consider...
 - a. Did the Holy Spirit cause anything in particular to “jump off the page” as you read?
 - b. Is anything repeated? Contrasted? Compared? (If so... why might that be?)
 - c. What are the verses revealing about God? About people?
In light of these, what needs to change in your life? What are you already doing well?
2. How many times does Matthew indicate that something was done to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by a prophet?
 - a. What is the significance of this?
 - b. Take time to look up each reference. What do you notice?
 - c. How does 2 Peter 1: 20-21 add insight?
3. Isn’t interesting that Joseph is told to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt? We may think that because of the slavery and plagues spoken of in Exodus that God has a negative view of Egypt. Read Isaiah 19: 16-25. How does this give insight into the heart of God for Egypt?

EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY – Connecting with Others in Advent

Read this article which talks about ways of reaching out to others where you live, work, study and play during the season of Advent. <https://freshexpressions.com/2022/11/27/missional-opportunities-in-the-cycle-of-light>

Pick one of the activities to do and invite people from those spheres of your life to join in. As Advent is a season of anticipation, anticipate that God will move in great ways as we share Jesus with others in our lives.

SING (Suggested songs to sing. Use these, or any favorites of the gathered group, to worship Jesus!)

O Come, All ye Faithful – Mennonite Hymnal #132

Hail to the Lord's Anointed – Mennonite Hymnal #113 (same tune as "I Sing the Mighty Power of God #50)

To Us A Child Of Hope Is Born – Mennonite Hymnal #125

Christians, Awake – Mennonite Hymnal #123

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the series:

Holy Spirit, this Advent season may I respond to Jesus with awe and wonder as I think about His love, grace and mercy that would have Him be born of flesh in order to save His people (including me) from their sins. Help me rejoice in You more and more as I treasure these things in my heart and have boldness and compassion to share with others where I live, work, study and play.