

THIS CHRISTMAS

Week 2

BRBC Groups

December 6, 2020

Scripture | Matthew 2:1-23, Ephesians 2:1-10

Ice Breaker | 1. What is the best gift you have given, or you have received at Christmas?

Going Deeper |

1. Is there anything that stood out to you from Sunday's message, or do you have any questions?
2. Read Matthew 2:1-12
3. Matthews Gospel is the only one that tells the story of the Magi. Think of all the Christmas pagents and movies you have seen of this event. What familiar elements are – or are not- part of Matthews account?
4. Herod the Great had no royal blood and he was not even fully Jewiosh, he was simply and opportunistic military commander whom the Romans made king keeping with their agendas. Why is Herod so disturbed by that the Magi tell him?
5. Why do you think Jerusalem was disturbed as well?
6. Read verses 13-23
7. What were the results of political power and ambition being threatened?
8. Herod's identity was deeply intrrenched in his title. He was a cruel leader who would kill anyone that threatened his power, even his own sons. While we are not as horrible as Herod, we sometimes act comparably out of insecurity. If someone were to disturb you by making a comment about who you are and where you find your identity, what would they have to say?
9. In the message this week, Rob spoke about the cycle of grief and the cycle of grace which is found in James Lawrences book Growing Leaders and used by the Arrow Leadership program. How would you explain what the sycles are and their differences?
10. If you think about yourself, would you say you are in a cycle or grief or grace?
11. What do you think needs to change in your perspective to remain in a cycle of grace?
12. The second Sunday of advent liturgically is themed around Peace. How does striving to find our identity in our achievements not bring peace? How does finding our identity in our acceptance bring peace?
13. Read Ephesians 2:1-10
14. Paul divides our lives into two periods, what are they? Who owned you in the first period? What was the result?
15. What does this passage say about who you are and what you are made for?
16. What one thing after listing to this weeks message and this discussion do you think you need to work on to live in a cycle of grace?