

Connect Group Notes

Sermon: Jesus: King of the World

Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

Date: 5th January 2025 (AM)

Introduction

On Epiphany Sunday we celebrated three aspects:

- *The Visit of the Magi (wise men or kings) to the infant Jesus – what happened*
- *The Epiphany - the significance of the Visit of the Magi*
- *The New Year - how the revelation of Jesus as King of the world applies to us*

'Epiphany' comes from a Greek word meaning 'to show something to someone'. An Epiphany is a moment of sudden and great revelation or realisation. It is like the penny has dropped, the light switched on; there is a sudden intuitive leap of understanding.

Bible Study

[Leaders, no questions suite every small group. Please adapt them to your own group]

Read Matthew 2: 1-12

The Visit of the Magi:

1. The magi were looking for a king, so what were their reactions when they saw the infant Jesus in his home in Bethlehem?
2. What are the key differences between King Herod, the magi (kings) and King Jesus?

The Epiphany:

3. On recognising who the infant Jesus was, the magi presented him with three gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh – what is the meaning of these three gifts?
4. Share in the group any Epiphanies (revelations) that you have experienced.

The New Year:

5. The beginning of the new year is an opportunity to refocus our priorities. Believing Jesus is King of the World how can we better reach into our communities? How can we help people to hear the gospel? How can we encourage family members, friends, neighbours and colleagues come to faith? How can we deepen our own faith?