

Christmas at Flatirons – Week 3

The Gift – Jim Burgen

December 19, 2021

Group Creed

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation-encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

// Bible References

Matthew 2:2-4, 7-12, 16; Luke 2:19

// Message Summary

Throughout the past few weeks, our *Christmas at Flatirons* series has taken a compelling look at “*how*” Jesus entered the world in a way that hopefully brings us closer to the “*why*” of the Christmas story. In week one we learned how God chose Mary and Joseph who were an ordinary young couple to give birth to and raise His one and only Son Jesus. God continues to choose ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things. The single condition that would qualify us to join God in His work is our “yes” in response to His invitation. Shepherds outside of Bethlehem may have even seemed a “less than” ordinary way to announce the good news of great joy. *But God* again used ordinary shepherds to make the impossible things possible. This week Pastor Jim wraps up our series with the story of the wise men and their visit to the king (Herod) and their visit to the *King* (Jesus). The gifts the wise men bring are actually rather ordinary but the meaning of these first Christmas gifts is a treasure.

Matthew wrote his gospel to the Jewish people. In the opening chapters, where we find our Christmas story, he records proof that Jesus is the promised Messiah and King. Matthew starts with a genealogy connecting Jesus back to Israel’s most famous King David, and further back to their acknowledged father Abraham. After the listing of the names we read that Joseph was told by the angel “to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). His name tells us who He is, and what He came to do for us. In Hebrew, the name of Jesus is Yeshua, meaning God is salvation.

// Community Questions

1. Christmas is nearly here. Do you have your shopping done, or are you waiting until this week to be inspired?

2. What is the best gift you have received and what made the gift or the experience memorable to you?

// Discussion Questions

1. The story of the wise men is recorded only in Matthew 2:1-12; read through this passage with your group. What stands out to you?
2. The wise men were probably pagan priests from Babylon who were practicing astrology to lead them to Jesus. What does this say about how God works?
3. The way that the wise men from the east learned of the prophecy and followed the star seems like an amazing journey. Thinking about your own life journey, who or what has God used to point you to Jesus?
4. God's love, expressed in the awesome life of Jesus Christ, may be the best gift anyone could ever receive. If you have received it, how will you re-gift it to others?

// Challenge

Who are the NextGen people in your life? Take a few minutes of time out during your week to pray for them by name. If you are looking for ways to be involved with what God is doing to reach the NextGen in our communities check out flatironschurch.com/nextgen.