

what child is this?

ADVENT 2016

DNA GUIDE

WEEK 1: THIS CHILD IS KING

DISCOVER (PRE-WORK)

Before and while you read these passages ask the Spirit of God to illuminate your heart and mind and bring conviction and clarity of his truth for your life. Take some time during your own personal study to read through these four key questions:

1. Who is God (what does this passage tell me about God's character)?
2. What Has God Done (how do I see God's character in action here)?
3. Who Am I (how does God's character and action shape how I see myself)?
4. What Do I Do (if I believe 1-3 how would I respond and relate to others)?

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12, Mark 1:15

QUESTION: What did you DISCOVER during your study?

NURTURE

Confess out loud to one another areas of personal struggle or unbelief that the Spirit revealed during your personal study.

In light of this week's sermon entitled, "This Child is King", consider these questions together:

1. The Christmas story is one that is marked by several supernatural moments, do you feel the temptation to normalize or demystify your faith when you interact with nonChristians? Why or why not?
2. The High Priests told Herod all about the prophecy regarding the Messiah but then later turned on Jesus, who had fulfilled all of the prophecies. What does this say to you about the need for more than just right information when it comes to our faith?

3. Do you often think of Jesus' life as having political implications? Why or why not?
How have the political implications of Jesus' life and message challenged or informed your understanding of a Christian's role in political matters?
4. In your own words, what is the Kingdom of God?
5. What are some aspects of the Kingdom that are the most compelling to you? The most challenging?

During this time, let each person share how or where they need to repent and believe the truth of God revealed to them in Jesus. You may need to guide each other to what is true of God and ourselves in light of what Jesus has done. For instance, someone may be experiencing a great deal of dryness or emptiness in their relationship with God. They may need to be reminded that God wants to satisfy the deep thirst of their soul with the living water that Jesus has to offer. The call to repent may look like turning away (repent) from empty sources or corrupt sources that they have been depending up and turning to Jesus (believe) to be the unending supply of soul water. Use this time for confessing out loud the wrong sources and calling out in prayer for God the Father to pour His love into their hearts through his Spirit as they turn to Jesus for help.

QUESTION: How will you REPENT and BELIEVE the gospel?

ACT

In light of your time together, what steps will you take to act on your new discoveries and affirmed beliefs?

Consider these questions:

1. Consider this week what aspects of the Kingdom challenge you the most and ask yourself why. Look for heart motivations.
2. Which Kings and Kingdoms have you pledged allegiance to? What have you found compelling about them?
3. In what ways are you like Herod? How are you preserving your own self-rule?
4. What are some ways this week that you will choose to follow and trust King Jesus?

QUESTION: What will you DO and who will you TELL about what God has done?