

Bethel Church Community Groups :: Week of 12/11/16

Matthew's Perspective on Christmas

1. [OPTIONAL] Review the message from Sunday – what do you remember?
 - a. What stood out?
 - b. Anything worth revisiting?

2. [CONTENT] Review Matthew 1.18-25 on your own with the text in front of you for about 5 minutes. Scribble down your own notes and observations as you go.
 - a. Come back as a group and first share what observations you made from the text (remember no opinions here – just facts/connections that can't be argued)
 - b. Try to land together on what Matthew's main idea here is (why did he write this to his audience?)
 - c. Now what application for us is there here to learn from?

3. [CONTENT] What do we learn here specifically about why Christ came?
 - a. In what ways is it important to keep those realities in front of us today?

4. [DISCUSSION] Certainly the name "Immanuel" for God here has a direct tie to Christ's coming to earth. What does it mean that God is "with us" today?
 - a. What difference does that make in our daily living?

5. [CONTENT] Now focus in on Joseph specifically in this passage, what do we learn from his example of what true faith looks like?
 - a. What does that look like to live out in our lives today?

6. [CONTENT] Now skip ahead to Matthew chapter 2 and read vv1-12 as a group
 - a. As a group note all of the things in the text that the Wisemen do in response to the coming of Jesus.
 - b. Now look at the response of Herod and the Pharisees to Christ's coming, what are all the things that are characteristic of them in the text?
 - c. From these positive and negative examples – what can we pull in (or out) of our lives this Christmas as we look to respond to Christ's coming to earth?

7. Pray for one another before you go.