



The King Has Come

DISCUSSION GUIDE

AN INTRODUCTION TO “THE KING HAS COME”

We have spent a year in the Sermon on the Mount, considering what a life of flourishing looks like. This life is the life of the Kingdom of God. Jesus was born to be the King who brings the Kingdom. Advent is the word for arrival. We are celebrating the arrival of our King. And with his arrival comes God’s rule and reign in everyday life. As we come to King Jesus and submit to him as our king, his kingdom is experienced and expressed through his people. The King has come in Jesus. The Kingdom is here through his people.

During Advent, we will look at how our King came and what his Kingdom is like. Then, we will ask those who have experienced Jesus’ kingdom, how we can express his rule in everyday life. We will especially focus on how we might do that amongst foster children and foster families.

WEEK ONE: “A Kingdom of Presence” – December 2

Text: Matthew 1:18-25

Key Idea: Because we have a Present King, our presence brings a Kingdom Presence.

Summary: Christmas season can be such a joyous time! The Christmas spirit is often stirred by the generosity of giving gifts to loved ones, listening to some classic

Christmas tunes, and visits to downtown Bellevue's Snowflake lane. While these things are great on their own, as Christians, it's our understanding that the heart of Christmas has little to do with presents and everything to do with His presence.

As we look through Scripture at the beginning of the story of the coming Christ, the author of Matthew starts by saying, "Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way." Christ, as you may know, is not Jesus' last name, but a title meaning "anointed one" or "King." So, what is really being said here is that in Jesus, the King Has Come!

With the arrival of our King, we also get to experience His rule and reign in our lives—we get to experience His Kingdom. Jesus is Immanuel, which means God with us. His Kingdom is a Kingdom of Presence – God is with us through Jesus. All those who by faith have received Jesus and submit to him as the ruler of their life receive the presence of God dwelling in them through the Spirit of God. God is present in us so that we can bring his presence to others.

Not everybody we know or come across on a daily basis is living life filled with love, hope, joy and peace. Many don't have a loving community where God's presence can be experienced. This can be especially hard hitting for many people (particularly in our own Eastside area) who do not have people to share the joy of the Christmas season with. We know that Jesus' heart is for those who are on the margin and those who are without. All who have received the real presence of God through faith in Jesus now have the opportunity to bring God's presence into the lives of others around us every day. He is present in us so we can bring his presence to others.

1. Read Matthew 1:18-25; John 14:15-18
2. What do these passages have to say about God and his work?
3. How has the presence of God affected you and where do you need God's presence?
4. How should God's presence in our lives affect how we are present with others?
5. Take a moment and ask the Holy Spirit, "Who are you leading me to be present with and how might I bring God's presence to them?"
6. For Missional Communities: Who is God calling our MC to "be with" this season?