



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 TWO: “A Kingdom of Care” – December 9

Matthew 2:1-6

Jesus is the Good Shepherd. John 10:11-16 expresses the large qualifying factors that define His goodness. The Good Shepherd is willing to face death for the protection of His flock. He stays intimately connected to the sheep that are a

part of His flock, on top of courageously reaching out to the ones that are outside of His fold. His sheep know His voice and He knows them. Jesus chose out of a place of comfort and glory in heaven to come to earth and be deeply involved with the messiness of our human existence.

As we look back on the life of Jesus as the Good Shepherd, we can list a plethora of ways in which He led, fed, and protected the people He cared for. He broke bread with those who were the outliers of society, He lived out what He preached, and it was all in the best interest of those He sought to look after.

It's not hard to recognize that people have many needs in the world (let alone our very own neighborhoods). Jesus lived, died, and rose from the grave so that we may live as an empowered people through Him alone. It is our opportunity that Jesus has given us to live into this identity of freedom as shepherds, coming close to others and being the familiar voice that will call them into Christ's freedom. It's through our lives that Jesus' perfect example of compassion, care, and intimacy as the Good Shepherd will be demonstrated for all those around us to see.

1. Read Matthew 2:1-6
2. What are some ways that Jesus fulfilled the role of shepherd during His life?
3. How have you personally experienced Jesus shepherd you?
4. Take some time to reflect on your life in this past season. Take a few moments in silence with God and ask Him to highlight to you where He wants to care for, protect, and lead you. What did you receive and how do you plan to respond to this?
5. Again, take some time to ask God, "Where can I be shepherding those around me more intentionally?" In what ways?
6. How can we together shepherd each other and others God has placed in our lives?