

**More Than I Bought**

**December 18, 2016**



**ICEBREAKER:** What is the best White Elephant gift you have ever received? Or seen given in a White Elephant Christmas Party?

**MAIN POINTS:**

**The only way to see Jesus this Christmas,  
Is to seek Him this Christmas.**

**EXPLORATION:**

**1. Read Matthew 2:1-4. What do you know about King Herod? Why was he so concerned about the birth of the Messiah?**

*(Context Clues- Herod was very jealous and insecure. He had sons and wives put to death. He was not even the rightful king. He was a descendent of Esau and not a descendent of Jacob. Caesar Augustus said that he would rather be "Herod's pig than Herod's son". The rumor of the Messiah being born was a threat to his throne.)*

**2. Read Matthew 2:5-8. What details do we have about where the Wise Men were to go seek for Jesus?**

*(Context Clues- They were to go to Bethlehem according to the prophecy in Micah 5:2. They were to go see a "child" not an "infant". Jesus was probably about 2 years old. They went to a "house" not a cave or a manger.)*

3. Look at the following list of prophecies that Matthew records as fulfilled in his version of the Christmas story. Read the passage from Matthew and the passage from the Old Testament passage and discuss.

**Matthew's 5 Prophecies:**

1. Matt 1:23- Isaiah 7:14- A virgin will be with child
  2. Matt 2:6- Micah 5:2- A Ruler from Bethlehem
  3. Matt 2:15- Hosea 11:1- Son will be from Egypt
  4. Matt 2:18- Jeremiah 31:15- Weeping in Ramah
  5. Matt 3:3- Isaiah 40:3- One will prepare the way
- 
4. **Read Matthew 2:9-12. How did the Wise Men respond to being in Jesus presence?**  
*(Context Clues- They gave gifts. They decided to rejoice. Their attitudes were marked by joy. They bowed and were humbled. They worshiped.)*

**APPLICATION:**

1. Do you think your approach to Christmas is more like Herod's or more like the wise men? Why?
2. How could your response to Christmas be more like the wise men's response in question 4 above?
3. How can you relate the wise men's actions to the main point: "The only possible way to see Him this Christmas is to seek Him this Christmas?"
4. Pray for the people of RPCC to Seek the Savior and worship Him this Christmas season. Pray for the needs of group members related to this season of the year and this study.