

THE PROMISED KING

Frankincense

INTRO

Share what your planning to do for Christmas this year. You can include any travel plans or family traditions.

READ

Matthew Chapter 2

REFLECT & RESPOND

As we pass through the pandemic it's important to understand that the difficulties, we go through may seem compounded due to the underlying pressure and tension that is already present. The Israelites at the time of the arrival of Christ were under Roman occupation and there had not been any prophets or new revelation from God in 400 years. Our faith can be challenged when we go through disappointments, opposition, suffering loss, trials, etc. In these times faith becomes increasingly important as we reconcile the differences between our hopes/expectations and difficult real-life experiences.

Qu: How has the truth of God's Word helped you through a difficult time in your life? How did God prove himself to be faithful?

"We also will share parts of ourselves with someone we love because there is a real desire to connect. What we want is for the person we love to know who we really are."

Dr Barton Goldsmith

Vulnerability shows intimacy. Jesus cares for you to the extent he became a vulnerable human being like yourself and was subjected to suffering. In fact even his early life was marked by displacement.

On top of God showing up in our lives we are also a part of the body or family of Christ. As a church we at Every Nation GTA desire and are committed to you being connected. Small group is a fantastic place to grow and develop in healthy relationship. Our leaders are also

available or can direct you to someone if you require a private or sensitive conversation. You can also notify us through the Next Steps page on our website.

Here's a rhetorical question for you: How connected are you? I.e. Do you share your thoughts with anyone before you make life decisions? (This is not a requirement by any means just a consideration for you as evaluate your connectedness.) How well do others know you?

Activity: One at a time have everyone in the group ask someone else in the group a question about themselves. For example, Sally asks Jim, "What is my favourite food?". Jim attempts to answer the question. Sally confirms or corrects the answer. Then it's Jim turn to ask Pete a question and so on.

Qu: Does it feel good to be known? In what ways could an increased connection with others be beneficial for you?

Like the High Priest carrying the censer of burning incense and covered by its smoke, as a believer in Jesus you are covered by his purity and holiness making you fully acceptable to God. It is the work of Jesus that guarantees God will meet with you.

RESPOND & PRAY

- Pray that the truth of God's acceptance through Jesus would be a reality to each person in the group.
- Pray that we would be an interceding and praying people.
- Pray that we would be submitted to Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
- Pray that we would be effective as the aroma of Christ to all those around us.