



NEW HORIZONS SMALL GROUPS

Sermon Title: “Christmas Upside Down Part III” - Randy Hood

Scripture Reference: Matthew 2:1-12

Connect: Grow together

- How did God show up in your life this week?
- What are you thankful for this week?
- How did you grow in your Christian faith this week?

Deeper: Beyond the message

- What was the main point of today’s message? How would you summarize it in one to three sentences?
- What point stood out the most to you? Why this point?
- What did the message say about you, God’s people and/or the world?
- How can you apply the message this week?

Application and Challenge

- What is it that helps us from seeking God as we should each day?
- What causes us to miss what God is doing around us?
- Speculate: What would motivate you to take a months long journey today from one place to another as the Magi did? What that long of a journey costs us today in money, time, energy, other things?
- What do we learn from the faith of the Magi?
- Look again at Isaiah 55:6, Matthew 7:7 and Hebrews 11:6. How might we live the meaning of these verses out in practical ways today?

Ideas for seeking God:

- Wait on God (take more than 15 minutes)

- Pour everything out of me first, then listen and seek Him.
- Read scripture and ask the Holy Spirit to speak through it. Any story or scripture in the stories of Jesus will work (Matthew – John)
- Fast, taking extra time when you would normally eat to wait on God and seek him.
- Go on a long walk with God. Have a heart to heart talk with Him.
- Take specific scriptures process them, pray them, listen, and seek God.
(i.e. Psalms 23, Psalms 139:1-18, Psalm 142:1-3, Psalms 145:17-20)
- Take communion by yourself (I Corinthians 11:23-26)
- Take communion with spiritual brothers and sisters
(Even with COVID restrictions, you can find a way to do this.)
- Pray with spiritual brothers and sisters.
- Worship with spiritual brothers and sisters
- Get up early before the sun rises. Sit down at a window facing east. Read Psalms 130. Seek God till the sun comes up.
- Get before the Lord and keep seeking him until he shows up (Psalms 132:2-5)

Note - There are so many more ideas, but remember, it is critical to have your heart engaged.