

West Bradenton Baptist Church

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North River Church

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Sermon Discussion Guide

Services from December 18, 2011



Objective

As we draw near the conclusion of the Advent season, this week we focus on how **love** comes together through the birth of Jesus, the Messiah.

Connect

Let's each share our name and how you and/or your family are blessing others this Christmas season.

Study

This weekend our message focused on the love of God seen in contrast to Herod and the response of the Magi. **What stood out the most to you from this weekend's message? What questions did the message or this passage raise?**

Read Matthew 2:1-12.

God sending Jesus revealed His love for the entire world. How do we see His love at work during the Christmas season?

Our Pastor made the statement that the love of God changes people. **How has the love of God changed you or someone who is close to you?**

What is powerful about the love of God?

Re-Read Matthew 2:1-8. How would you describe Herod's approach to changing culture? **How does this differ from the way of Jesus?**

How might we be used of God to transform our culture? Let's list some practical ways we can move this direction.

Apply

The love of God transforms personally. We see this most clearly through the "wise men" or "Magi."

Re-read Matthew 2:9-12.

What do we learn from the Magi about worship?

Turn to 1 John 4:9. In this passage, God reveals through John how God's love has been displayed or "made manifest" and the result to His children.

I know this is a deep thought, but what does it mean to "live through Him"?

Pray

Joys & Challenges... What joys & challenges are you facing this week?

Church Family... Pray for our *Come Together Offering Campaign* as we give through our church for international missions, church planting, and campus expansion.

Beyond Family... Pray for those in our neighborhoods who have not experienced the life-giving love of God. Pray that we might be bold in showing the love of God so that we might share the God of love with them.