



## Connection Group

Date of Message: 12-18-22

Series Title: Simple Truth/Big Hope Title of Message: Joy of Hope

Main Text: Matthew 2:1-12

Support Texts: Psalm 19, Micah 5, Numbers 24, Romans 2, Hebrews 10.

Opening up: What is your favorite gift over the years?

Digging in:

- If Christianity is true, why don't all the smart people in the world automatically agree on it?
- What about all the people in the world who are not Christians? How does God feel about them?
- What does this passage tell us about pursuing God?
- Why does Matthew spend this time to tell us about these Gentiles (outsiders) pursuing the birth of Jesus? What can we learn from that?
- Discuss that Matthew begins his story with the Wise Men and closes it with the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). What can we take away about God's heart for the world?
- Do you pursue the presence of Jesus with duty...or with delight? What difference does it make?

Making it yours:

- How can we believe there is a God when the world seems like it is in such a chaotic mess?
- What can we do this Christmas to show that God does make a difference in this world?

Prayer time:

- Pray for those in our community that are hurting and lonely during this advent season.
- Pray for those in our church that need healing.
- Pray for those in your group that have requests.
- Pray for those on the Bethel prayer list

