

LESSON PLAN: GIVING UP CHRISTMAS

Miles McPherson - December 11, 2016

: How many Magi or wise men came to worship at the birth of Jesus?

Christmas Control / Matthew 2:1-18

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.....'



THIS WEEK: Pastor Miles discussed one of humanities greatest problems: control. What controls us? Why it is a problem? And how do we overcome it? Today we will discuss how it affects us and decide what we can do and will do to "lose control".

Opening Discussion - Study Questions:

Herod (and those around him) believed he was fully in control of his kingdom. The inability of the most powerful man in the kingdom to exert his power over a newborn baby undeniably demonstrates this lie.

What area of your life do you have complete control over? Your time, health, finances, leadership, education, career, relationships, diet, addictions, anger, habits?

What area/s of your life would you like to have more control over? Your time, health, finances, leadership, education, career, relationships, diet, addictions, anger, habits?

Group Activity - Putting Knowledge Into Action:

Luke 10:38-42 describes this with the story of Mary and Martha. How can we balance our serving with spending time with Jesus? How do you know when to sit and when to serve?

In Matthew 2:13-14 Joseph was told to go to Egypt and did so that very night! Share a time you were immediately obedient to God? How did you feel? How did obedience impact your life? Can you share a time when you weren't obedient? What happen? Can you see the how obedience and control are related? Read 1 Samuel 15:22. How does God view obedience?

The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, is not always found in quiet and tranquil surroundings. It is a peace "that guards our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus". How can giving control over to God give us this peace? When have you experienced peace in the middle of chaos?

Going Deeper - Personal Challenge:

One of our greatest problems in living out a Christian life is in giving up control to God. Miles said that "anything that we are in control of will die or pass away! Identify one area of your life that you know or believe that God wants you to give up control.

What area of your life would you like God to bless?

Taking it Home - Application:

What is at least one area of your life that you WILL GIVE God full control over in complete surrender?

Schedule an "appointment" with God. The Rock Men's Ministries calls this an EPC.

