



# The Visit of the Magi

Week of December 20, 2015

These discussion questions can be used the week following the message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your Connect Group discussions.

## Message Recap:

Read Matthew 2:1-12

The visit of the Magi in Matthew 2 shows us how God wants us to look up, see hope and be change(d). The Magi saw the star and listened to God. They followed that star and found Jesus, the hope of the world. When we look up we can see the light that is Jesus, showing us the way. In Jesus we have hope; hope to endure or overcome our circumstances or hidden brokenness and live a life redeemed. This kind of encounter with Jesus changes us. When we are changed, we can then be the change in other's lives by sharing the hope of Jesus with them. So as you enter 2016, remember the real gift of the Magi; the reminder to Look up. See Hope! Be Change(d)...

## Pray

Jesus, you are the light of the world. You are my hope. You are my purpose. It is only through you that I have life. It is only in you that I can be alive in hope. Thank you. And in 2016, help me remember to Look up, see hope, and be change(d).

Share Your Experience This Week  
#SevernRun

## Getting Started

- What things do you still have left to do before Christmas?
- What do you do when you feel overwhelmed by what needs to be done, or when the things you hoped for aren't happening?

## Listening Deeply

1. Look at Matthew 1:18-2:12 and Luke 2:1-40. Then list the things that are a part of the Christmas story from a Biblical perspective. How does that differ from typical Christmas stories we hear today?
2. How were the shepherds changed when they heard about Jesus? (Luke 2:8-12)
3. How were the wise men (Magi) changed when they heard about Jesus? (Matthew 2:1-12)
4. When you are looking at the fear, anger, dissatisfaction, and hardships of the world, you are being blinded by distractions of a broken world. The Magi teach us to stop and look up; what does that mean? How can you do that?
5. Why or how is Jesus our hope?
6. How does hope change our lives?
7. How have you been changed by the presence of Jesus in your life?
8. How will you be the change to the broken world around you?

## Living Wide in Jesus

We all have broken lives on some level; either through our circumstances, or in some hidden way. But there is a way to overcome our brokenness--by coming alive in hope. Being *Alive in Hope* means no longer being alive in the blinding distractions of the world. It means that we allow the hope of our salvation to change what we do and what we focus on. What are some of those distractions to you? Is it fear? Dissatisfaction? Anger? Loss? Have you let your hurts overcome your hope? It's time for you to come Alive in Hope and embrace your purpose in Jesus. Use the space below or on the back of this page to list the things you've been holding on to instead of hope. Then give those things to God and ask him to restore your hope and help you come alive so you be the change in the world around you.