



Everyone recognizes the look of Christmas. What everyone needs to recognize is that Christmas should change how we look at everything. This series will explore some of life's greatest themes through the lens of the birth of Jesus.

**These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.**

**1** Rick began this series by reminding us that Christmas reframes how we picture everything. He challenged us to reframe how we view God (we saw that Jesus is the best way to picture God). This week's message asks us to picture a new view of wisdom as it reframes the question, "Who is the true wise man?" What is one thing that resonates with you from these first two lessons?

**2 WISE PEOPLE often look foolish.** When you think about the birth story of Jesus how were some of the main characters (Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the wise men) considered "fools" by their contemporaries? The Bible tells a story that directly challenges the wisdom of the world. Read **1 Corinthians 3:18-19**. How does the world's view of wisdom compare to the Biblical view of wisdom?

**3 WISDOM UNDERSTANDS... that anything is possible with God.** Conventional wisdom mocks the credibility of the supernatural (angelic visits, virgin births, moving stars, etc.). But the Christmas story reminds us that "God can do anything!" (**Luke 1:37**). Most followers of Jesus believe that to be true; they just don't believe God can do anything in and through them like Mary did. Too often our fear of appearing foolish aborts what God wants to conceive in us. How have you experienced that to be true in your life?

**4 WISDOM UNDERSTANDS... that nothing is sovereign but God.** We must understand that Jesus came to be a redeemer; we must also

understand that when he came he was already a ruler. **Read Matthew 2:1-2**. Notice that they were not looking for a kid; they were looking for a king. How does this fly in the face of the wisdom of the world?

**5** Wisdom recognizes that all the "Herods" demanding our allegiance today are pretenders, and that the real foolishness is the refusal to transfer sovereignty to God. How does the story of Christmas clarify where your true allegiance should be?

**6 WISDOM UNDERSTANDS... that everyone is important to God.** Christmas birthed the most inclusive faith the world has ever seen because Christmas pictures a God who cares about everybody. **Read John 3:16**. With that in mind, how does Christmas reframe God as the original seeker? How does Christmas reframe the way we picture ourselves?

**7** What is one area of your life where you need to apply God's wisdom instead of continuing to rely on worldly wisdom?

**Closing thoughts WISE PEOPLE look to Jesus!** Jesus reframes all the answers to life's greatest questions. He tells us who we are, why we matter, and where we're going. He's not just Savior; He's not just Sovereign; He is smart! **Read 1 Corinthians 1:24-25**. That's why wise men, and wise women, still come to worship him.

