



Sunday Teaching Discussion Guide: FIVE DIRECTIONS 01.06.2019

Recap:

- In Jesus's story, God's invitation to all starts at the beginning. The wise men were not Jewish but they were among the first to worship Jesus. In Paul's letter to the church in Rome, an early verse invites "everyone who believes" to the "power of salvation", not just Jews, but also Gentiles. For those in the church in Rome, they probably discussed whether Jesus's good news was for only the Jewish or whether Gentiles were welcome.
- For us, no matter where we have come from or what our background is (like the wise men), we are invited to accept Jesus's power to change our lives. Faith isn't about where we have come from or where we were going; faith allowing God to find us and we respond by changing our direction, like the wise men.
- The first of the five directions we are focusing on is connecting. Connect helps us to see that the reality is that it is God who pursues us with the ultimate picture of this being shown in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus restores our relationship with God, takes all that we were, are, and ever will be, and bring us into connection with Him so that we can be all we were created to be.

Discuss:

1. READ Matthew 2:1-11
2. What do you think the wise men had thought would happen when they arrived in Bethlehem? What intentions do you think they had?
3. The text says that the wise men "opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." What spiritual truth do you think the story is suggesting with including this detail?
4. READ Romans 1:16-17
5. Why do you think some believers might have questioned whether Jesus's good news was applicable to all or whether it only applied to certain people? How are we sometimes like these people who have these questions?
6. READ Matthew 2:12
7. Can you think of a time that you responded to God in changing your direction in life?
8. On Sunday, Ryan read a quote, "Spiritual practices don't cause God to do anything. But spiritual practices open us to the Grace through which God can do everything." Why do you think it is important to recognize that our "practices don't cause God to do anything"?
9. Is God calling you to change any direction currently?

Pray: Invite members of your group to share prayer requests. Give a short prayer thanking God for your group discussion and asking God to be with the requests that have been shared.

Read at Home: Additional Readings about Direction

- Genesis 12:1-4 Isaiah 45:22-25 Luke 19:1-10