



EPIPHANY 2024 - "The Revelation of God With Us"

Matthew 2:9-12 NIV

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

1 John 1:1-3 ESV

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:20-21 NIV

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God. Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

Key Points

- *Epiphany is when something is seen or revealed.*
- *The thing about a light bulb moment is not that you understand everything entirely but rather that you understand something in a way that changes how you see everything else.*
- *Encountering Jesus affects us deeply.*
- *Jesus is the light of the world who entered the darkness and made things seeable that previously weren't.*
- *The more we consider the Gospel, the more the world opens up to us. As the world opens up, it gets more complex and harder but more ripe for redemption.*
- *His presence opens us to a new way to see everything else.*
- *What if we saw and experienced God's presence as if we were with someone who knew how to navigate the chaos of a broken world faithfully and full of hope, and our job was to stay close?*

READ

Open your time together by reading the Scripture passages on Page 1. Then, take a moment to consider what you just read:

- **Read Matthew 2:9-12. Reflect on the reactions of the magi when they found Jesus. How can their response inspire us in our spiritual journey during the season of Epiphany?**
- **Read 1 John 1:1-3. What is emphasized about the nature of Jesus Christ? How does this shape our understanding of the Christian faith?**
- **Read 2 Corinthians 1:20-21. All of God's promises find their "Yes" in Christ. Discuss the significance of this statement and how it might influence the way we approach prayer, trust, and faith in our relationship with God.**

REFLECT

- **How do you personally define and experience "epiphany," especially in the context of your faith journey?**
- **Reflect on a specific moment in your life that felt like a "light bulb moment." How did it change your perspective on other aspects of your life or your faith?**
- **Consider the idea that the more we delve into the Gospel, the more the world opens up to us. How has your exploration of the Gospel impacted your perception of the world around you?**

RESPOND

- **How do you navigate the complexity and challenges that arise as the world opens up through a deeper understanding of the Gospel?**
- **The metaphor of Jesus as the "light of the world" implies dispelling darkness. How has the presence of Jesus illuminated areas in your life that were previously unclear or hidden?**

PRAY

Close your time together with prayer requests. Ask how you can pray, support, and lift one another up. Pray over these requests collectively or by breaking into prayer partners.