



Discussion Guide

Ice Breaker: What year was your most memorable New Year's Eve? What made it special?

1. Pastor Nate asked us what was on our Christmas wish list. What was on yours? He also asked what we were returning. Anything you decided to return or exchange?
2. Read John 1:14a, 10-11 and John 8:12. Pastor Nate stated that light both reveals and reorients. How did Jesus coming do both in helping us understand Who God is and what He wants to do for us?
3. Pastor Nate explained that Christmas shows us that we are "worse off than we think we are." How do you see this in society today? Read Romans 1:21, 25. How do these verses help us understand this concept?
4. Read Hebrews 1:1-3a and Philippians 2:6-8. How do these verses show us that "Jesus is better than we think He is?" Do you think we really grasp what Jesus gave up in coming to live among us? Why or why not? What should our response be to His willingness to come?
5. Pastor Nate quoted C.S. Lewis when he said, "There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations—these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub and exploit." Jesus demonstrated how highly he values us by coming to us. In light of this, how should we reflect our value to one another?
6. Read 1 John 3:1a. How should a healthy understanding of who we are in Christ impact our interaction with each other?
7. As Pastor Nate concluded the message, he asked us, "To what are you returning?" Read John 12:36a and Matthew 5:14-16. How will you shine in this upcoming year?

Personal Guide

Day One: Matthew 1:1-17

Day Two: Matthew 1:18-25

Day Three: Matthew 2:1-12

Day Four: Matthew 2:13-18

Day Five: Matthew 2:19-23

WISH List

"What Are You Returning?"

DECEMBER 29TH, 2019

MESSAGE NOTES || SMALL GROUP
DISCUSSION & PERSONAL GUIDES



“What Are You Returning?”

[Nate Sickler, Sauk Rapids Campus & Small Groups Pastor]

MESSAGE NOTES

What was on your Christmas _____?

What are you _____? (John 1:14a, 10-11; 8:12)

What does light do?

Christmas shows us that...

We are _____ than we think we are. (Romans 1:21, 25)

Jesus is _____ than we think He is. (Hebrews 1:1-3a;

Philippians 2:6-8)

We are more _____ than we think we are. (1 John 3:1a NLT)

There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations - these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit. --CS Lewis

What should be on your Christmas Wishlist?

_____ are you returning?

_____ the Light (John 12:36a)

Be _____ (Matthew 5:16-17)

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. Fill out the connect card to share your response to the message today and put it in the offering baskets at the end of the service today.