

WEST RIDGE GROUPS

Group Member Discussion Guide

Week of December 15, 2024

CHECK-IN (~20 minutes)

How was your week? What was the high part of your week? What was the low part of your week? What can we celebrate together?

MESSAGE SUMMARY

This week, we continued our message series *Traditions*. We were honored to have Jerry Gillis teaching God's word. In his sermon he shared the significance of the gifts brought by the Magi to Jesus: gold, frankincense, and myrrh, highlighting their prophetic and symbolic meanings. Gold signified Jesus as King, frankincense underscored His role as High Priest, and myrrh foreshadowed His sacrificial death for humanity's sins. He emphasized that Jesus fulfilled dual roles as both the King in the line of Judah and the eternal High Priest after the order of Melchizedek, bridging God and humanity. Pastor Gillis challenged us to offer "sweet-smelling sacrifices" to God in response, such as witness, worship, prayer, and generosity, reflecting the life of Jesus in us. Finally, he called us to be grateful for God's gift of Jesus and the ultimate gift of Salvation.

GROUP DISCUSSION (~50 minutes)

1. Thinking back to the message this week, was there anything that challenged you personally? Share your thoughts with the group.

2. *Read Matthew 2:1-12*

How do the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh reveal aspects of Jesus' identity and mission? Which of these aspects (King, High Priest, Sacrifice) resonates with you most personally, and why?

3. *Read Hebrews 7:11-19; Psalm 110:1-4*

How does Jesus' priesthood differ from the Old Testament priesthood? How does this encourage you in your relationship with God?

4. *Read Romans 12:1; 2 Corinthians 2:14-15*

What does it mean for your life to be a "sweet-smelling aroma" to God? What practical steps can you take to ensure your actions reflect the fragrance of Christ?

5. *Read Philippians 4:16-18*

How is generosity portrayed as an act of worship? Share an example of how giving has been a meaningful expression of your faith or has impacted others.

WRAP-UP (~10 minutes)

It is important to be growing in our relationship with Jesus and one another - what is one next step you can take this week to grow? Share with the group and commit to holding one another accountable.

What does it look like to hold each other accountable? It can be as simple as a text or phone call during the week. Hebrews 10:25 encourages us to meet regularly and to encourage one another on a regular basis.

Example: "Hey _____, you indicated in group this week that you were struggling at work with being light in a dark place. You said that your next step was to start a conversation with someone at work this week around the topic of faith. How did that go?"

PERSONAL NOTES

This week, my next step is:

This week I am going to check in on (name):

This week, my Bible reading will be (e.g. Philippians chapters 1-4):