

**Antioch CELEBRATION Message: "Living with Genuine Hope"**

**Sermon Series: "How to Have a Perfect Christmas"**

**Dates:** December 25, 2016

**LEARN / live / love / lead**

**LEARN about each other!**

If you could ask the Wise Men one thing, what would it be?

**LEARN about Living with Genuine Hope**

**How did the wise men express their worship?**

1) They were devoted.

They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. **Matthew 2:11a (NLT)**

Pastor John said, "As Christians, everything we do, every word we say, every activity, every relationship should be an act of worship. Our main venue of worship is not here at Antioch; it is out in the world."

- Worship (being mindful and thankful) changes the ordinary into the extraordinary! Does that change the way you think about your "ordinary life"?

2) They were dedicated.

Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. **Matthew 2:11b (NLT)**

Pastor John said, "We have not truly worshiped unless we have given the Lord something that costs us something. We give because that's the essence of our faith."

- Worship is the act of displaying worth by spending what you have on what you love.
- What do you most like to spend on God and the work of His church—time, resources, money, energy, etc.?
- Which is most difficult?

3) They were going in a new direction.

When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod. **Matthew 2:12b (NLT)**

Your direction is determined by whom you are following!

...Worship and serve him with your whole heart and a willing mind. For the Lord sees every heart and knows every plan and thought. If you seek him, you will find him. But if you forsake him, he will reject you forever. **1 Chronicles 28:9b (NLT)**

## learn / LIVE / love / lead

Who was a "travel agent" who helped you find your way to Jesus?

In thinking through the process you went through to find Jesus, would you describe the journey as long and difficult, short and sweet, or are you still on the way to finding Jesus?

What's the first step of true spirituality once you find Jesus?

HINT:

Jesus said, "God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs." **Matthew 5:3 (NLT)**

## learn / live / LOVE / lead

What are some ways you can serve Jesus and your neighbor this season?

## learn / live / love / LEAD

What is the name of someone you can invite to Antioch?

## **Pray!**

Thank God for the gift of Jesus! Thank God for the "travel agents" in your life! Ask God to give you opportunities to be a "travel agent" for someone else to find Jesus!