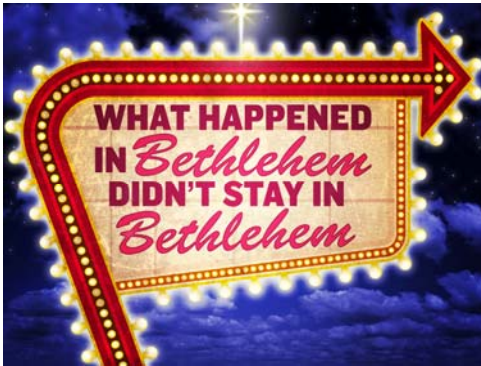


en·gage

to involve oneself or become occupied; participate: *engage in conversation*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2009

**"WHAT HAPPENED IN BETHLEHEM
DIDN'T STAY IN BETHLEHEM" PART 1 OF 4**



SERMON TITLE: "Investment"

MAIN POINT/PASSAGE

- ▶ "You and your time are remembered long after gifts are forgotten."
- ▶ Matthew 1:20-23

SERMON REVIEW

- ▶ What insight, principle, or observation from Sunday did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ▶ What was the first gift your spouse gave you?
- ▶ What happens to the gifts you don't need?
- ▶ When did you start asking for the gifts you need rather than the gifts you want?
- ▶ Describe where you were 20 years ago - spiritually, relationally, etc.
 - What regrets have you had?
 - What were some of the best decisions you made?

DIGGING DEEPER

- ▶ Read 1 Timothy 5:1-8
- ▶ What is the intent of Paul's advice for Timothy?
- ▶ What types of provision is Paul speaking of in verse 8?
- ▶ Does this passage reflect your family and how they support each other?

APPLICATION

- ▶ How do you plan to spend the next 20 years of your life?
- ▶ Who are the people that need more of your time and attention? How will you give it to them?
- ▶ As a group, is there a way to coordinate schedules to share babysitting responsibilities to allow parents to go on dates?
- ▶ See the special note below. As a group, identify and coordinate opportunities to help people in your community.

SPECIAL NOTE - FEBRUARY IS "GROUPS IN ACTION" MONTH

More information will be coming soon! Each group should identify a "Faith In Action" coordinator (or two) and begin brainstorming on a project that your group can do during the month.

Personal Prayers

1. Start your small group time off with prayer.
2. Ask for personal prayer request. In other words, have group members share request about them, not friends or family members.
3. Do the same for praises.

Impact List

Have 2-3 people share about people from their impact list.

1. What is the next step in their friendship with that person?
2. How can your small group pray for them?

Close to God

1. Have 2-3 people share what is happening in their "Close to God" time.
2. How have they grown closer to God?
3. How can your small group pray for them?

