

Participants Homework Guide

For the week of December 10, 2017

The Main Idea:

The Star signals HOPE and LOVE of God

Talk it Over

- What Christmas Traditions did your family observe?
- What Christmas Traditions do you observe as a family
- Share your favorite Christmas memory?
- How much did Americans spend on Christmas last year? How much on Pets? (\$1 trillion, \$60 billion)

Key Questions:

- Read Matthew 2:1-12. What parts of the story stick out to you?
- The Star signals HOPE. Read Psalm 19:1-4, Psalm 8:3-4. How does God use the stars?
- Read Isaiah 7:14, 9:2.. The Bible tells us that it was also a pretty dark time for the people of Israel when Jesus showed up. The Old Testament prophets had prophesied of a Messiah, but it had been a long wait—hundreds of years of waiting. The people of Israel lived in that space between promise and fulfillment. How does our waiting for Jesus compare to the Jews waiting for the Messiah?
- Read Hebrews 11:1, 1 Peter 1:13. What does waiting on the Hope look like for us?
- The Star signals Love. Read Ephesians 1:4-6, 3:17-19. What truth about God's love do you see in these passages? Do you ever have a hard time accepting His love for you? Do you ever doubt that His love is enough to cover all the pain, hurt, selfishness, and evil of our world? Or that His love is enough to cover the pain or hurt in your own heart?
- Read Romans 8:38-39. How does Paul describe God's love for us?

Next Steps:

- The Star signals Hope
 - That God will show up in the darkest hour
 - That hope is meant to carry us through the wait
 - Waiting means being active, present in the moment while still anticipating where we are going.
- The Star signals Love
 - The love that never gives up
 - The love that conquered sin and death
 - The love that surrounds us daily and fills us eternally.

PRAYER REQUESTS