

THE CHRISTMAS PLEDGE

- 1** To remember those people who truly need my gifts.
- 2** To express my love for family and friends in more direct ways than presents.
- 3** To rededicate myself to the spiritual growth of my family.
- 4** To examine my holiday activities in light of the true spirit of Christmas.
- 5** To initiate one act of peacemaking within my circle of family and friends.

From Unplug the Christmas Machine | by Jo Robinson and Jean Coppic



WINTERJAM

A New Year's Eve / for Teens-Youth feat. **Dakota Trogden**
Clinton, Arkansas

Saturday, December 31, 2016 / 7:30 p.m. – 12:30 a.m.

FOOD | MUSIC | GAMES | PRAISE | WORSHIP

AWAKENING REVISED

Start strong and join us for a season of fasting, prayer, and personal direction. **January 9-29** we plan to set aside **21 days to pray, fast, and seek God** to believe Him for a new season of grace and miracles in our lives, the lives of others, our church, and the world.

|| Instead of the Daniel Fast, we plan to have a sign-up sheet for participants to fast on a select day or days.

Holiday Services

Please mark your calendars for these important gatherings!

★ Christmas Service
Friday, December 23, 2016
◎ 7:00 PM

★ New Year's Service
Friday, December 30, 2016
◎ 7:00 PM

Pursuing the KING

DECEMBER TEACHING SERIES

Dec 04 » The King's Promise
 Dec 08 » The King's Plan
 Dec 18 » Guest Speaker: Stan
 Dec 23 » The King's Presents

PRAYER REQUESTS

▶ THINKING - OF - YOU PRAYER

Breanna V. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	Noe F. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Annabelle G. ▶ Lung Cancer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kenny D. ▶ Neurological	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elizabeth S. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	Danny L. ▶ Peace Corps	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trevor W. ▶ Afghanistan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moe M. ▶ Lung Cancer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ralph H. ▶ Fluid in the brain	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lotz Family ▶ Family Grief	<input type="checkbox"/>
Suzie S. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	Phyllis L. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Barb D. ▶ Bone Cancer	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Donald S. ▶ Addictions	<input type="checkbox"/>		

▶ URGENT PRAYER

Peggy H. ▶ Arthritis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Emma G. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Barb S. ▶ Cardiac Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mary Ellen H. ▶ Diabetes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Toni R. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dean W. ▶ Recovering	<input type="checkbox"/>
Peggy K. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kathy T. ▶ Cancer	<input type="checkbox"/>

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"When the stakes are high, bow down low."
 — Beth Moore

12/18/16

METRICS ▶ THAT MATTER

28 ATTENDANCE \$1,800 GIVING 0 GUESTS
 17 VOLUNTEERS 0 DECISIONS FOR CHRIST

¹ After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose
 and have come to worship him. *Matthew 2:1-2*”

// The Wise Men » Seek The Newborn King The structure is pretty simple...

»01 vs. 1-2

Wise men looking for Jesus based on a “new” star that has led them. They arrive looking for the king (Herod); their arrival caused a stir and caused panic in Herod’s court. The question: “*Where is he that is king of the Jews?*”

»02 vs. 3-6

Herod was disturbed; he asked the priests and scribes where the Messiah was to be born, they told him it was in Bethlehem because of the prophesy of Micah.

»03 vs. 7-8

Herod called the wise men to find out what time the star had appeared and informed them that they should report back to him so he could also worship. Herod’s intent was evil.

»04 vs. 9-12

The wise men followed the star that led them to the child and to Mary. When they arrived, they presented their gifts and went back by a different way—because they had been warned in a dream.

The First Christmas » Gifts

On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Matthew 2:11



- They presented him with the gift of **gold**. Gold is mentioned 358 times in the Bible.
- It was a treasure befitting royalty or deity. Represented real wealth.
- He was given the gift of **frankincense**. It speaks of prayer. Incense is offered only to God. It speaks of His deity and divinity.
- Frankincense symbolizes prayer accepted before God.
- They presented him with the gift of **myrrh**. Myrrh was used for embalming bodies. It represented wealth.
- Myrrh spoke prophetically of sacrifice.

A Preview Of What's To Come

- The wise men are the first to pay homage to the **King of the Jews**.
- According to **Philippians 2**, “every knee shall bow in heaven and in earth, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”
- According to **Revelation 4**, “¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: ¹¹ “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”

Takeaways...

- 1 Keep your eyes open to see what God is up to.
- 2 Don't miss the moment to follow God's direction.
- 3 Expect opposition.
- 4 Break open the very best of yourself and make it a gift for Him.
- 5 No one comes to Christ and goes back the same way he came.