

Reflection Questions

1. How have you seen God use seemingly insignificant people and events in your life or the lives of others?
2. Which of Jesus' commands do you find most unrealistic or idealistic? What would it look like to take that command more seriously?
3. What is one thing you can do in 2016 to live with Christ as your Ruler, King, & Shepherd; not just your Savior?

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth:

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent and convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief:

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.



Micah 5:2-4
December 27, 2015

God Of The Small

"...though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel..."

-Micah 5:2 (NIV)

Bethlehem was a small town a few miles outside of Jerusalem. It seemed insignificant and unimportant.

However, out of Bethlehem came Christ who was significant, critical, and world-changing.

Regardless of how unimportant or insignificant you might feel, God can use you for his glory and his purposes! He has a long habit of calling the unprepared and working through the unexpected.

NOTES

The Shepherd

“He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord...” -Micah 5:4a (NIV)

Kings, in the ancient near east, were often referred to as shepherds. It was a word picture that points to the responsibility of the king to watch over his people, guide them in right paths, and help protect them.

It also says something about the people: Sheep are utterly dependent upon the shepherd.

In other words, Christ isn't an accessory to your life. He is the source of your life.

NOTES

Ruler, King, & Shepherd

The prophets talked about the hope of a new kind of King, a different sort of Ruler, and now a Shepherd. All of these images describe the Son of God who has come.

Christ is the long-awaited King, our righteous Ruler, and the Good Shepherd.

Each of these pictures points to the character of Christ and our responsibility as his followers!

-Since He is our Ruler: We are to live in obedience to his commands.

-Since He is our King: We benefit from his reign, but are also called to live according the ways of his kingdom.

-Since He is our Shepherd: He watches over us with loving care. We have not been left on our own, but we must also recognize our need for Him.

Prayer

Prayer: Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

(Source: Book of Common Prayer, First Sunday after Christmas)