

== *It Wouldn't be* ==

CHRISTMAS

Without...



December 31, 2017

How can I respond to this messy part of the Christmas story?

1. I can _____ the King or not.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him." King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem.

Matthew 2:1-3 (NLT)

2. I can _____ the King or not.

Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. Then he told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!" After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Matthew 2:7-11 (NLT)

3. I can _____ the King or not.

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. After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up! Flee to Egypt with the child and his mother," the angel said. "Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

Matthew 2:12-13 (NLT)

GRACE NEWS

If you want more information or to volunteer with any of these opportunities, please make a note on the Let's Connect card.

9:41 - Why does church start at 9:41 on Sunday? Matthew 9:37-38 says 'Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." We are praying for laborers and we are praying that God would equip us to be harvesters! Set your phone alarm and join us in praying at 9:41 am every day for our community, and the (941) area code.

January 9th, 6:30 – 9:00 there will be an organizational meeting for the Let's Go Fishing Ministry in the boathouse. Meetings will be held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month in the boathouse (garage) from 6:30 – 9:00 pm. If you would like to be part of the team please call the office or indicate on your Let's Connect Card or simply show up on the 9th!

January 13th, Second Saturday of the month - Grace on the Bay kayaking. Leaving from Vamo Way Park at 9:41am. Bring your own kayak, or call the office or indicate on your Let's Connect Card if you need one and we will arrange that for you.

Grace t-shirts are now available for \$10.00 each after the service in the Gathering Place.

gBay – like eBay, but for Grace Church – therefore, gBay! The gBay team receives donations and sells them online to raise money for the church. If you have previously loved items to donate or would like to volunteer please indicate on your Let's Connect card.

LET'S CONNECT

PLEASE TEAR OUT AND DROP IN BOXES AS YOU EXIT

Date: / / 1st Time Visitor

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Birthday: / / Male Female

I would like to meet with the pastor.

MY DECISION TODAY

- I said **YES** for the first time, and became a follower of Jesus.
- I decided to **RENEW** my relationship with Jesus.

We have resources to help you with your decision.

PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAY FOR: _____

Public Prayer List For Pastors Only

I WOULD LIKE INFORMATION ABOUT:

I can help with the Christmas Events.

SMART GIVING

go to: egracechurch.com/give

-OR-

text any amount to: 941.200.1515

An effective and time-saving way to give your tithes and offerings without carrying cash or writing checks.



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Pastor's Bible Study - Tuesday mornings, 7:30am at the Vamo Starbucks (8394 S Tamiami Trail) ALL are welcome!

Step Up – AA meeting Wednesday mornings at 7:00 am in the Gathering Place Meeting room.

Prayer hour – Wednesdays, noon – 1 pm in the Worship Center. Come to a quiet place to pray, pray over requests or if you are in need of prayer.

2nd & 4th Thursday of the month, Sprout - Community breakfast is served at 9:00am followed by food distribution by All Faiths Food Bank from 10:00 – 11:30 .

Community Clothing Connection - Open during Sprout hours the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 10:00 – 11:30 am.

Faith & Fellowship bible study – 9:00 am, Saturdays At the Potter's Park Pavilion. Coffee and donuts served during a Bible study – Church Can Happen Anywhere! Please join us or let us know if you would like to volunteer.



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