



As we enter into the New Year of 2018 it is important to not leave Jesus back in the manger of Christmas; to not put him back on the shelf with the rest of the decorations. Rather, Jesus encourages you to take him with each day; to live in his love and grace; to worship him faithfully; to shine his light wherever you are. True New Years' blessings are found when you live each day in the presence, love and promises of Jesus.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Read Matthew 2:7-18.** Why do you think the angel was so specific with Joseph that he needed to *"take the child and his mother?"*
2. In what ways is it easy to forget about Jesus when all the Christmas celebrations are done? Why is it so important that we bring Jesus with us as we enter into the New Year of 2018?
3. Even though we love Christmas Carols, in what ways do we often not live out the message of their words? Example: *"Joy to the world;"* How are we living that joy? Jesus is the *"prince of peace (love);"* Are you living that peace and love? What about our world? *"Go tell it on the mountain;"* How passionate are you about telling others about Jesus? Other carol messages you can think of?
4. Knowing that Jesus is with you—how will that affect your life at work; school; facing health issues; dealing with financial challenges; finding healing in relationships?
5. Why is it so important to *"take the child Jesus"* with us in everything we do at Calvary? In what ways can churches even forget about Jesus? Why is Jesus' mission more important than personal likes and personal preferences?
6. What are one or two of your New Years' hopes for 2018? What are one or two of your New Years' hopes for Calvary in 2018?
7. **Read Ephesians 3:20-21.**
8. Do you believe that Jesus *"is able to do immeasurable more than all we ask or imagine?"* What are some big visions you have of what God is going to do in you in 2018? Here at Calvary? Then how do you think you can give *"him the glory in the church?"*

MOVING FORWARD

Take some time this week to think about; pray; and ask Jesus to walk with you each day in this New Year of 2018. Make specific plans each day to reaffirm Jesus' presence in you—and then think about some specific ways you are going to share the love and light of Jesus with others.

PRAYER

Loving God, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, to this world as a little baby in the manger. As we enter into the New Year of 2018, empower us to take you with us each day; to know your love and presence in us. Then help us, Loving God, to shine this love of Jesus in and through us in everything we say and do. Thanks, Jesus, for your amazing and awesome love! Amen