

Computer Generated Transcript - Well good morning everybody. We are starting a new series this morning we are going to be moving into our Christmas series. As we move into this time and. I want to just as we talk through this thing is as we look through it as we go through this is such an interesting time of year because so many times are so much joy and wrapped up in this thing and right as all the songs how many of you let's be honest how many of you started listening to Christmas music around July. Anyone OK there's a few honest people here OK how many of you are like me and there's like a firm rule that Christmas music does not start until after Thanksgiving that's that's who you are like that that is my rule the I was out on vacation I was out of the office the week before Thanksgiving social Rachelle was really excited because she started blasting her Christmas music up and down the halls because I was gone she I told her she can listen to it all she wants I just don't want to hear it in my office you know before that so. So she was she with what she was playing in. But she enjoyed that but you know all those songs are all about all this happy stuff right you know you walk in a winter wonderland how many of you when you go outside and the closer it gets to the December you don't really see a winter wonderland you just see winter right I mean like it's just winter. You know and or or maybe you know all these songs about joyful it can be tough I don't know how many of you have experienced something like this but maybe maybe this time of year is the first or the first Christmas without a certain loved one right or for me I had a childhood experience that kind of shaped a lot of my childhood that happened right around this time so this can be sometimes a rough time of year for me and I'm not trying to make you feel depressed at Christmas that's not the goal OK that's that's not what we're aiming for but the point is I know that for every one of you out there who this is your absolute favorite time of year and. Nothing could make you more excited than moving toward the Christmas season some of you out there are really dealing with some frustrating things some difficult things in Christmas as as we move toward this time and there's another danger. If you grew up in a church. One thing that can begin to happen as as you hear this See these stories over and over and over again is you can almost become a little used to it just like anything else you get a little use to the story of Christmas and can I tell you that that is an incredible disservice to this story for you to just get used to it and for me to get used to it and I'm honest I mean I have struggled with that from time to time I struggle with that year to year as as we look through these things it can be a difficult thing. But if you ever really thought I mean if you sat down in recent time and thought about the ridiculous things that we say happened during Christmas I'm when I say ridiculous I'm not saying they're on true I'm just saying if you don't believe in God how audacious and ridiculous some of these claims are a teenage girl who was a virgin got pregnant. Just start there right just just sit right there I want you to just imagine sitting in the junior high OK you're just sitting in a junior high and a teenage girl comes up to you and says I'm pregnant and I've never ever had sex before just just those two thoughts put side by side she was Hong drugs right. Then then we go a step further but right so no good and I do this almost every year dads how many of you dads have daughters how many of you are dads of daughters and this place right OK I want you to imagine your precious little girl coming to you right and saying before she's married and she comes to you before she's married and she says I'm pregnant dad but don't sweat it it's God's baby right I mean how many of you going to be like a whole I'm so happy for you young lady. Right I mean how much do you have to trust your daughter to even begin to believe something like that even if you are a person of faith how hard is it for you to swallow that thought as a dad. Right and these are the kind of things that happened all over in the Christmas story and we're just like oh yeah I do this was born of a virgin. And we just say it like yeah that's normal right be talk about these angels appearing left and right like yeah that's no big deal that happens every day in my house you know just last night we were sitting at home having dinner in an Angel showed up not that's not really what happened OK I'm I'm I'm being a little sarcastic right there this is this is crazy things that happen in this story and what can begin to happen as as we hear it over and over again is it just becomes like any other story and it just becomes common how about the fact that a new star showed up in the sky and a bunch of people from a different land followed it. To the birth of a king. A I don't know how many of you would even notice if a new star showed up. Right like oh that one's new I've

never seen that one before. Oh well do you have to know the stars to know that there's a new one up there right I mean a new star just shows up and we're just going to follow it because it's what we do. Right I mean this stuff is absolutely crazy sounding especially if you don't have a faith back around and the point of all of this the reason I'm telling you this is I want us this through this year I really are focused through this whole thing is and I titled the series rediscover the wonder all right I mean this is this is what I want us to do is is to to dive back into this story and let us speak let it speak to us again and so as we do this I'm going to be bouncing back and forth in the story I'm going to be moving kind of from in to beginning and around and all of these different things as we go I'm not going to be following the exact timeline in the next four weeks but I want to to do a few things I want to say to. I want to just regain a sense of how amazing it is and I want us to just kind of hear this story again with with fresh ears All right so as we do that I want to make sure that that we do the so one of the things that we're also going to be doing every years have you ever paid attention to this story and look at how many times the Old Testament is referenced in the story right how many different times through that it's only like four chapters right Matthew wanted to and then Luke one and two and it's not very much of the Bible but in that amount of time Old Testament is referenced so many times there are so many things in the Old Testament that come about on that day and I know again as church people were like Yeah it was prophesying it was fulfilled big deal right because we just expect it but you realize how how crazy that sounds if you don't believe in this stuff to begin with right and so I really want you to be thinking about that some of these prophecies we're going to reference a couple of prophecies today they happen that different time in the scripture OK One of them happened almost four thousand years before this day. Let that sink in almost four thousand years before this happened somebody said it was going to happen. And then it happened. The earliest ones were about four hundred years beforehand which is amazing enough right that four hundred years before something happens somebody like yeah this will happen. Then it goes down and not only one of those little pieces come together there's hundreds of prophecy is fulfilled right in this moment. Right in this Christmas story and we need to understand how significant that is how big that is so I want you to open your Bible to Matthew Chapter two this is the part of the story we're going to start with today Matthew Chapter two I know it's not the beginning of the story Matthew Chapter two we're going to start in verse one OK if you're new to the whole church thing in your Bible Matthew is in the New Testament which is toward the back half right you're going to hit profits with all kinds of weird names and they're going to get to Matthew Mark Luke and John the names that you recognize a little more that's where we're at Matthew Chapter two I'm going to read out of the New Living Translation If you've got your own favorite That's fine but if you get it select on on the phone and you want to follow along that's what I'm going to read out of K Matthew Chapter two verse one 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 new born King of the Jews we saw his star as a rose and we have come to worship Him King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this as was everyone in Jerusalem he called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of the religious law and asked Where's the Messiah supposed to be born in Bethlehem in Judea they said for this is what the prophet wrote and you will Bethlehem in the land of Judah are not the least among the ruling cities of Jews of Judah for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise man and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared verse aid. 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 the mother Mary and they bowed down and worshipped him then they opened their treasure chest and gave him gifts of gold frankincense and myrrh 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. How many times you've heard that story most of you probably more times and you can count

some of you might be wow it's the first time anybody's ever read that to me out of the Bible and that's OK I know and this place we've got we've got such a wide range of people and where they're at in their faith journey and that's great I love that about this church but but listen what happens here is pretty amazing and even if you haven't heard that story right of the Bible you've probably heard the song right you've probably seen it in some Christmas movie something like that reference right and and and we see this this tale of these three wise men are recording the song these three kings K. and they go about here and I want to just take a second here and hit some timeline stuff if you study it out there's two basic schools of thought and I really hit hit this hard this week and I actually began to change my mind a little bit about some of my thoughts on this there's a school of thought that thinks the wise man got to the to the manger about two years after Jesus was born between one and two years OK because they talk about you know you see that Herod asks where or when the star comes up and then the wise men go home by another way you saw that and or at the end of the story and what ends up happening and we're going to talk about of this a little bit next week is Harry decides he doesn't want another king to be born so he kills all the boys under the age of two in this entire area OK this is a devastating infanticide that happens in this part of the story and and killed so people are like OK so they're in the house not the manger now right that's what Bible says they're in a house not the manger and he kills or one or two so he must of they must have not got there till a year or two afterwards and that that makes sense I mean you can get there I believe that for two decades or so that they got there but I'm starting to change my mind a little bit I'm not one hundred percent sure there's another group and we'll go through this timeline again a little bit next week that believes that this all happens within a couple of days of Jesus's birth that he is there that the wise men are there within. Couple of days and I'll talk like I said if you're confused about that all timeline this out more clearly next week but But what happens is they come and Herod basically picks a time right he just says like I want to make sure I get them so we're going to pick all the people under two and you can kind of timeline this out and you can see it the star roles but that doesn't mean that the star rose on Jesus's birthday right we don't know when the star rose they just fall the star and they came all that to say that really doesn't matter OK with the exception that they come and they visit Jesus in the House they're no longer in the manger now again just a little bit of thing most of us how many of you have an epiphany scene or three up already at your house OK you've already got him up there up there you're manger probably looks like a stable right it's probably got some sort of wood on it and there's some hay and all those kind of things and that's fine and there's this famous verse you know there's no room for you in the end you know and all of this stuff and I'm not saying any of that is wrong other than most of us think about stables incorrectly in the way that they dealt with most of the stuff a home in Bethlehem especially at this time was usually built into kind of like a cave OK especially with a cave in the back and so the manger would be in a cave in the back of the home and the home would be attached to that the animals would be in the back part of it and the home would be attached so a lot of people think that when she goes from the manger to the home she's just going from the back of the cave to the front of the house right. Now and saying that again these details don't really matter other than there is at least one day that passes between Jesus being born and the wisemen coming all right it's not it's not that day he's born and then shortly after that they come and they're hear this word that's translated wise men or kings or all kinds of things is really the word magic I K It's actually the exact same word that's used to describe Daniel. When he becomes leader of the magic I in his area in his book. It's the exact same word that's used from these these are learned men who study the patterns of the sky who who study religious texts who do all of these kind of things so these are necessarily Kings as in their rulers these are very powerful men most likely. That are very wealthy most likely they're very educated and they're coming looking for Jesus all right and I just want to kind of lay out some of that history because that becomes really important as this as we go through this I told you I want to reference some of this all the way back in Numbers Chapter twenty four seventeen I'm not going to give a lot of time but if you want to make a mark or you want to go back there and look at Numbers Chapter twenty four seventeen says I shall see him but not now I shall be hold him but not near there shall

come a star out of Jacob and I scepter will be in his hand and many people believe that this is a reference to this star that they follow that when these magic I see this star rise in the sky they know something's coming down. All right these magic are from the east they're probably from the very same area that Daniel would have been making his prophecy and writing when the when the Jews were and were in the Babylonian exile all right and I know I just threw out a really churchy word right there but the Jews were caught were conquered they were taken into Babylon as slaves and in that zone that's where Daniel wrote his thing and that's the area that these magic eyes most likely would have been from so they would have had some access to some of this stuff all right then you begin to see the writings of Daniel give him them a timeline the writings of Daniel himself be give them a timeline to begin looking for all of these things and then you see a direct quote of Micah chapter five Verse two here as and the and the Jewish leaders understood it and you all battle him in the. And of Judah they're asked Where is he going to be born and the the religious leaders understand what's happening all right they understand what what is going on but there's a couple of words in this story that I really want you to hear at the beginning OK as as you look at all this it's so important if you look right away. In verse three where is the newborn king of the Jews is the question and King Herod is deeply disturbed as was everyone in Jerusalem. This was major news. Hey this is a huge deal that the Messiah maybe he's born Now this is something that rocks the city of Jerusalem all right Herod the king in this area is not a Jew OK He is an outside King he has power because Rome has power here but he is not a Jew and he begins he's threatened right King Herod the Great if you've ever studied history you know that this man was a maniac this man killed his family killed his kids killed all one killed wives I mean this man is is out of control and a newborn king is born. This is deeply disturbing to the king who wants to remain in power. By this is just deeply disturbing to the man who says I'm the king and that's not going to change. And so he begins to have this plot. Just come back and tell me when you find him. What he tells these magic guy. When you find him. Come and tell me I want to worship him to not really I want to kill him. I want to kill him that's what he says. And these men go. And you can see they enter the house and this is such a big deal. They go into the house and they find Jesus now before we dive into that again before we really go into that I want to talk about this and I want you to think about this real quickly. One of the things that God our God Jehovah the Lord Jesus gets a bad rap for is that they think he only cares about Jews right especially in the Old Testament the only people he seems to really go to bat for are the Jews and there's a couple of things I really want you to hear this morning. Were the magic Jews is one. There were the Jews people of the blood. Of Abraham follow a Jewish faith and they were Gentiles which is everybody else OK to Jews are only two types of people in the world US. Everybody else Ok us and them that sit sit there's Jews and there's Gentiles The only distinction that matters. OK. The Magic are from the east they are not Jews. God speaks to these men and he uses them in the story of the birth of his son and I want to talk about that for just a second. In this story we see some four and there's church history that tells us there's three of them there's church history that will even tell us their names but all of that is. Guessing OK we don't know how many of them there were we don't know what their names were a lot of people assume there were three because there were three gifts brought OK but we don't really know no matter how how firm a statement that song wants to make about We Three Kings of Oriental are you know we we don't know and honestly it doesn't really matter we just know there were some of them that came from the east OK. But I want you to stop and think again here before we move on about how much faith starting this journey would have taken again I want you to imagine you're sitting at home tonight. And you look out of your window and you see a star. OK you're at home and you look out and you see a star and for some reason you're convinced it's a new one. OK it's a new star you've never seen it before therefore it must be a new. Day and for whatever reason you feel a prompting to go chase this star you chase it so you have to tell your wife hey there's a star in the sky that I've never seen before I'm a chase it until I find it because I think there's something cool underneath of it. And then you have to call your boss and you're like you know I need a leave of absence from work. Because there's a star in the sky. And I feel like it's time for me to go chase the star because underneath that star there's probably

going to be something pretty great. It's going to happen they're going to check your meds they're going to they're going to see if there is something happening inside of your body that is not normal because this is bizarre like to do this I mean one who sits there in thinks oh there's a new star I've never seen before let's go run after it that this is not normal. It's not a normal response to seeing a new star I could go out in the night sky every day and see a star that I probably have never seen before or at least one that's never registered I mean I know like the Big Dipper you know I'm pretty familiar with Orion that's about it in my knowledge of the constellations OK that's as far as it goes and really I don't even know where all the stars of Orion are I just know where his belt is right can find that belt but I have never in my life felt any sort of desire to try and chase a star. I used to think as a kid to be cool to be an astronaut but I never thought let's follow this one because underneath of it it's pretty cool because we know right now we know the earth is round all of these things are happening to us to chase a star would just be to go around until can see it and then what. And yet these men see this star in the night sky and they decide to leave everything behind. And chase it follow it because there's this prophecy that they know enough about just enough that they think that that stars somehow significant in the timeline. And they want to be there. Now we know OK One of the ways that we know this is or we know that it didn't lead them necessarily directly to the house they didn't even know exactly where to go because they go looking for a king among the Jews and where do they go. Do they go to Bethlehem. No where does a story say they go to the palace of Herod. They're looking for a king of the Jews so they go to where the king over the Jews lives. Right that's what happens they there's a new born king So what makes sense is to go to the palace where the Kings are because there must be a king there Herod by this time is a pretty old man he is not having any new kids and so when there's a new kid that's announced when they say there's a king that's coming. There and knows there's a my kid and he becomes deeply disturbed and then the star leads them. To the manger after they're told he's going to be born in Bethlehem Bethlehem by the way is at this point in time especially in history as is a hamlet of a town I mean this is a tiny little village it has become much larger now if you ever go over there I haven't been there but someday I want to go there it's become much larger because everybody of Jewish or Christian belief wants to go to Bethlehem right and because they want to see the city where Jesus was born so now there's hotels and there stuff like that all over the place and you can actually even go to a spot the church where they believe the manger was and they built a church over this spot and you can you can go to a church where they think Jesus was born OK like Jesus wasn't born in that church they built a church over the area where they think he was born. And it's a big touristy thing now. But this time it was a tiny little town. This is this tiny little hamlet of a town. And they go. And they find the King of Kings the Lord of Lords. As a you know again depending on the timeline that you think between a baby. And two years old that's all amazing. All of that if you sit and you actually step back and you think about all of this amazing stuff a star shows up in the sky. Wisemen. Magic I. Decided has significance and they go chase it may actually find what they're looking for under the star of your thought about how crazy that is they actually found a following a star what they were looking for right. Pick one tonight and follow it. See if you find you're looking for that's not the most amazing part of the story and that's not I don't even think that's not even the part that really will begin to help us with our thinking as we approach the Christmas season. The thing that I think will help us with our thinking as we approach the Christmas season is what was their intent. I did they even begin this journey in the first place what really was the point of finding this king they come and they didn't just come to watch Jesus or see Jesus I mean they wanted to see the king that that's part of it but that wasn't the point they sought out the king of the Jews they brought amazingly appropriate gifts for him you know if you look at the story in the symbolism of all of these things and what those things would have represented they brought amazingly appropriate gifts for who Jesus would become I would even almost call them a prophetic gift that they lay down at the feet of this man who would be prophet priest and King and ultimately die for their sins and you can see that in those gifts but that's not that's not the amazing part they come to Jesus and you can see when they see him what happens I want you to look. At verse eleven. They entered the house and saw the child with his

mother Mary. And they bow down and they worship him. To see if King would be cool. They probably even bowed before Herod when they when right when you go in you see a king. In this day and age you probably about. Worshipping Herod probably was nowhere on their mind but when they bow before this little baby. This. This is toddler it's not just vowing the response is the worship. And if you are really distracted by the bells over there right now they're practicing for their Christmas Carol let's just get it out in the open everyone's like sets out they come to Jesus. They bow down and they worship him and then they give gifts and here's the deal this is this is really what I want to say. There's lots of things about Christmas to look forward to. I'm with I love a white Christmas I know some of you are from the south and you're like if you if you never saw snow again you'd be fine with it right and that's OK like a white Christmas holds no appeal to you because snow equals cold I love a white Christmas all right I like a white Christmas that if it just snowed on December twenty fourth and all melted on December twenty sixth I'd be cool with that don't get me wrong I'm not a huge fan of long winters but I love a white Christmas I I am the music kind of annoys me I'll just be honest I don't I don't love it just because it's like the same twelve songs over and over and over again for a month OK it's not having like some people like I'm leaving and never coming back to this church. I get it I did a lot of you love Christmas music and that's cool that's your choice right it's not my favorite part of Christmas I love getting together with family I love doing those kind of things around the holidays holiday times I love to eat right there are certain things that only get made around Christmas time and I love it right I I love those parts of it I'm a gift giver I really don't love to get gifts I mean I don't mind it who minds getting a gift I don't I don't mind it but I love to give gifts I love to pick stuff out big or small it doesn't matter and just surprise people with stuff right I mean I I love doing that it's one of the ways that I just I find great enjoyment of life and none of that is wrong some of you have already sent out your Christmas cards is amazing Mandy has one family member that always sends out Groundhog Day cards because she never gets around to it before Christmas. You know we don't even send them out anymore I'm sorry doesn't mean we don't love you we just don't send them out anymore I maybe we will someday again but we've talked about the last couple years and like yeah and I know so. We love reading them we love seeing all those things it's this is all none of this is bad some of you set up your Christmas tree you know in mid November and you skipped Thanksgiving basically right and then all of these things that happen or you set up your Christmas village some of you have Christmas villages that are unbelievable Right I mean you have like you don't have a small town your house is now a town right I mean and and none of this stuff is bad none of it is wrong none of it none of it is bad. But none of it is the point. None of it's really the point none of it's not wrong I want to make sure you hear that I'm not making fun of anyone who does that that that's that's not me mocking you OK. Just not the point it's not the reason that all of this stuff happens translations all agree on the order if you look at every translation represented in this place and I can even go far as to say I want to write another really tricky word the Septuagint which is the Greek New Testament it's one of the oldest documents in modern in the world OK. You can go back and we can look and the order is the same there it is as it is in ours and I think that that significant these men and all of the posse that they probably would have brought with them into the house. They see this baby or this child with his mama. Bowed down. They worship him they don't they don't come and give gifts first OK That's important their first reaction seeing Jesus. Is to worship him I think that's incredibly significant. I think that's incredibly significant they saw the divine. In this child and they got a chance. To simply worship God and I want you to hear that this morning because like I said at the very beginning of this I know that there are people out there who are struggling this year for whatever reason. Grief. Job stuff going on I mean there's one hundred things that could be happening out there. Could make this season difficult maybe you're just not that excited this year you know sometimes I just happen to like maybe maybe Christmas is usually your thing and this year you're just like. All right here we go again. That happens to just about everybody some point time in their life or in or not but I really believe that one of the ways that we can rediscover all the wonder that is Christmas. Is to just take some time this Christmas season. And worship the One who it's all about maybe you do that through Christmas music. Maybe you do that

through whatever it is that you do. But I think in the busy ness of the season which is crazy right I mean so many of us this is the busiest time of year how many of you are going to go to at least for Christmas parties this year at least for OK now you want to actually raise your hand I know there are some of you out there at least four K. at least right it's busy. Cookin you're getting dressed up you're doing all this stuff. There's so much that we cram into this short amount of time we travel. Or people are traveling to us and so people are traveling to you that means the house got to be perfect right specially if you have a mother in law coming. That Want took a little while for some people yet. There's so much good that happens in this time of year that can distract us from the best thing about this year. And I want to encourage you this year. Make sure that there is time. In your day time in your week time in your mind where you set aside everything else. You just chase Jesus. And worship him. I really believe as we begin to get our heart and our mind back there. Will help us get back into line what all of this stuff is for. That's all really about. Is OK I want to say one more time is OK to like all the stuff of Christmas it's OK. Let's make sure we're focusing on the best thing. We worship. Or Get All right so we're going to close this is the way we close every service if you're a guest with us this is how we close forty eight out of fifty two Sundays here we believe just like we were talking about this morning that Jesus Christ came to this earth about two thousand years ago. He was born he lived and then ultimately he died. Because we needed a sacrifice to be made right with God a final sacrifice once and for all to be made. Right with God We call that the new covenant. That's what the Bible calls it. No longer do we require some priest to make a sacrifice in our name Jesus came once and for all he died. And then he rose from the dead another. Mazing claim. When Jesus can do that kind of stuff. Can you do. These acim self said that he is the way he is the truth he is life he's the only way to God start because churches want it to be the way it is because it's what Jesus said. It's what we believe he is the way to go. So this morning if you're here and you never chosen Jesus you never chosen that kind of life so you never chosen to lay down who you are and to receive the forgiveness of Jesus we want to give you a chance to do that this morning we want to give you a chance to really. Ask that if you're in this place and you've done that before right you follow Jesus in the past you've been around you've done that but lately your life has been more about you than anyone else. Hasn't been about Jesus it hasn't been about doing what he wants it's been about you. This morning you want to see that change you want to give you a chance to deal with that to someone ask everybody to bother heads closer eyes I was going to ask those two questions we're not going to call anybody up here and embarrass anybody that did today that's not how we do things here. We believe that it's really simple to choose Jesus we acknowledge our sin or believe in Jesus we confess our sins to him. Because that's what we believe the Bible teaches All right so if you're in this place and you never chosen Jesus before. This morning you're ready to this morning you're ready to say I need your forgiveness Jesus and I want you to lead my life I'd like you to raise your hand we're not going to wait here long we're not going to linger long we just want to pray with you if that's you you've never chosen Jesus and this morning you're ready to a very anybody at all and once you raise your hand all right we're going to move on to that second question maybe you're in here and you've chosen Jesus in the past. But lately it's been about you and about him this morning you just want to own that and you want to start moving a different direction when you want to move back toward Jesus if that's you would like you to raise your hand when to pray with use or anybody at all or. You raise your hand already that's you can put it back down is there anybody else all right so here's here's what we're going to do I'm going to I'm going to say a prayer with you you can look at me for a second I'm going to say a prayer because I don't know where all of you are who raised your hand. So I'm going to pray I want you to pray after me going to help you with this if you're in this place and you've already chosen Jesus I would like you to pray after me as well if you're in here and you have not chosen Jesus and you're not ready to this morning we're going to be praying for you we want you to make those decisions but no want to hear wants to make you do something you're not ready to do so you don't have to follow after me all right you don't just you can sit and just do your thing and that's fine but for the next couple moments I just want to pray so if you raise your hand or you're in here and you chose Jesus already I would like you to pray after me all right Repeat

after me let's pray Jesus. I know better. I've been here before. And I messed up. My focus has been wrong. Forgive me for that. Middle line my life back up. With yours. Thank you Jesus. And man. And man those are such important things I can't tell you how excited I am about those kind of things I want to encourage you if you came and you have questions about what's next come and talk to me talk to the person that brought you don't leave this place with all these questions let us let us help with that all right and here's here's the last thing I want to do I'm not going to ask people to stand this morning because I just don't want to call people out necessarily like that this morning but I know again I just I know in a room this size there's some of you this morning who are just really struggling you're struggling with this whole holiday thing. You know and it's just. Been rough this year for whatever reason. You're not you know you're just not feelin holly jolly Christmas this year. It's just tough I want to pray for you. Not going to ask you to raise your hand or Stan or anything like that this morning I just want to pray for you all right and I want to encourage you each and every one of you whether you're having a great the best holiday season the best Christmas season of your life. Or not. To really carve out some time to worship Jesus more or this week this month this time OK. Jesus you're good. I know that there are lots of distractions that can keep us from this. God there's lots of things that can make this a tough time of year. I just pray this morning for those who might be struggling. I pray that you bring comfort. For you bring peace pray that as each and every one of us approaches this whole season and in our own way in our own traditions and all of these things God that you help us to make sure that your the center of those traditions that your the point of all of this help us to remember that God help us to carve out time. To really just worship you such an incredible thing that we see from these men who traveled so far. Just to see you. And worship each. Of us to have that kind of desire that kind of just odd day shifts passion to see you this year. We're willing to do whatever it takes. To get with you. And worship you. Speak to us in your name I pray a man. A man missing out of just a couple of instructions real quick all right it's eleven fifty four you guys are free to go if you've got kids in the kids ministries areas at the very end of the services they're all working on their stuff that they're going to be doing on the seventeenth so you have five minutes of kid free time OK Please Don't Go get them yet let them get to noon all right before you go get them for everyone else you have kid free time all the time that's OK but we want you to have a great day and thanks for coming.