

<i>Advent 4</i>	18 December
The Promise for All Peoples	2016

God keeps **ALL** his promises

Key Passages

Psalm 86:9
 Matthew 2:1-20; 24:14
 Ephesians 2:8-10

Thinking & talking through the bible during the week helps turn what God is saying into action steps. Here are some questions to start.

Reflection Questions:

- What questions and comments did you have about the sermon and supporting texts?

God's long promise to rescue and ransom people from among other nations, finds its beginning as God actively draws to himself people from the East.

- The gospel is not a western invention. Jesus was/is not white. Western democracy and economics is not the highpoint of the gospel. Why do we so often confuse western thinking with the kingdom of God?

You can know the Bible and miss Jesus.

- How and why does that happen?
- Look at the example of the priests and scribes in **v4f**.
- What happens when we get overly familiar with godly things?
- Why do you think so many get distracted and miss Jesus?

We come to Jesus by faith alone

- There is nothing we can bring/give to God that makes us worthy.
- When you were young, did your parents give you money to buy them gifts (or maybe you do that with your kids)? Whose money was it? Were you giving them anything that couldn't get themselves

God keeps ALL his promises. God is sufficient (more than enough).

- If 2016 was a "*joy to the world*" year for you – praise God, enjoy it, that's a gift.
- If 2016 has been a "*bummer*" of a year for you, full of pain, hurt, disappointment, struggles – know that the hope of the incarnation is that God know and that he is enough; lean into him; he always keeps his promises.

Living it Out

- Write a promise of God on the board in the OCC entrance way. Post a picture with #promises.
- Sign up to be part of Mary & Joseph's Amazing Journey thru Orillia. Post a picture with #noroomattheinnproject.
- Invite someone to our Christmas Eve services 4:30pm | 6:45pm
- Pray for people in your circle regularly (daily) between now and the end of the year... that God would open their hearts to understand and believe and respond. Look for opportunities to speak Gospel truth into their lives.