



Small group discussion questions December 2017/January 2018

Chapter & verse – Lawrence Moore (page 18)

Read Matthew 2:1-18, followed by Lawrence Moore’s article.

1. The article begins with one of the Bible’s names for Jesus: Emmanuel (‘God with us’). What other names for Jesus are there and what do they signify? Which best sums up what Jesus means to you?
2. Lawrence’s opening paragraph explains why, for him, the Gospel is good news. Are there other reasons? Why is the Gospel good news for you?
3. What modern day situations can you think of where people are ‘faced with forces way beyond their control’ (as Lawrence describes in the opening paragraph)?
4. Lawrence’s second paragraph reminds us of the third verse of the Bible text, which describes Herod as ‘frightened’ by the arrival of Jesus. Why was Herod scared?
5. The third paragraph of the article states that ‘God noticed ... [and] expects us to do the same’. What types of injustice does God call us to notice/take action about?
6. Referring to the Jersey Care Inquiry (available online via bit.ly/2zbPrmM), Lawrence says that ‘fear, and a desire to preserve “the Jersey way”, won out over ... dismantling an abusive system’. What do you make of this conclusion?
7. Lawrence’s fifth paragraph says: ‘All systems are designed ... to perpetuate themselves, and in so doing, protect and preserve the people who operate them.’ Do you agree, or disagree? Why? How does this apply to the Church?
8. The article suggests vigilance as one way that individuals can combat systems of abuse and ‘call the powerbrokers to account’. How else might we tackle this?

