



Date: 12/17/24

Title: The Lack of Denial

Scripture: Matthew 2

Introduction to Analog

The word, Analog, means “something that is similar or comparable to something else.”

Analog is designed to be a tangible way to take another deeper, look into each week’s Sunday morning message. Individuals, friends, small groups, and families can use Analog for further discussion and exploration of the Sunday teaching. May this tool help you explore the expansive heart of God and practice love in the ways of Jesus.

Teaching Season

So many circumstances surrounding the first Christmas recorded in Matthew and Luke were fraught with harsh realities. Rather than paint a picture like Norman Rockwell may have, the gospel writers paint a picture that points to the reality of a dark world filled with dark powers at work. Against this backdrop, we learn of the birth of Jesus.

Teaching

There is no sanitizing this story. Christmas tells us about a candle lit in a dark room. While we still attempt to light up the dark nights in December, in some ways that may be a small way of denying the darkness that remains in our world. It may even drown out the real light that came to us on that sacred evening thousands of years ago.

Listen to the teaching [online](#) or on the DCC App

Opening Question for the Group: Start your group discussion with the question below.

1. What is one skill you are very proud of?

Questions for Discussion or Reflection

Here are some questions for discussion or reflection. Don’t feel like you have to cover them all, and you may have questions of your own to ask. The Spiritual Practice for this week could be very meaningful for you or your group, so plan on 10 minutes or so for this exercise. If you are using this in a group context, read through these questions and the Spiritual Practice before your group meets to familiarize yourself with this material. You may want to send this out to the group before you meet.

1. When you read Matthew 2 and the atrocity that surrounded the birth of Jesus - what feelings rise up within you?
2. What are some way you have worked to deny or avoid pain in your life?
3. Share about a time when you could no longer avoid pain - how did you respond?
4. What does the light of Christmas want to say to each of you? (Take a moment and then share with one another).

Spiritual Practice:

This week for our formation practice, we invite you to listen to our guided time of prayer and reflection. You can listen to this guided prayer by clicking on the link below. You can also access the spiritual formation podcast through the DCC App.

[Spiritual Formation Podcast: Advent week 3](#)