

MESSAGE SUMMARY

You are not following a silent God. In Matthew 2, you see a God who speaks because He loves you. The Wise Men worship Jesus, and only after devotion do they receive direction. Joseph listens to God through dreams and obeys even when obedience is costly, uncomfortable, and uncertain. God does not give them the whole plan at once; He leads them one step at a time.

In 1 John 4, you are reminded that love begins with God, not you. God showed His love by sending His Son to save you. When you truly receive that love, it changes how you listen and how you live. God's love always leads to movement. When He speaks in love, you are not meant to go home the same way you came.

The question is simple and personal: Are you willing to take the next obedient step God is lovingly leading you to take?

MAIN POINTS

1: God Speaks to You in Various Ways (Matthew 2:12-15; 1 John 4:9-10)

God speaks because He loves and desires your obedience.

- God's guidance is always rooted in His loving character (1 John 4:9).
- Worship positions your heart to hear God clearly (Matthew 2:11-12).
- Obedience may interrupt your plans, but it protects God's purposes.

2: God Often Leads You One Step at a Time (Matthew 2:19-21; Proverbs 3:5-6)

Trust is not what you feel; trust is who you follow.

- God rarely reveals the whole plan at once.
- Obedience often feels uncomfortable before it feels rewarding.
- God gives the next step when you faithfully take the current one.

Big Idea: If God loves you enough to speak, He loves you enough to lead.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why does God speak to His people according to Scripture? Possible Answer: God speaks because He loves His people and desires their obedience for their good and His glory (1 John 4:9-10; Hebrews 12:6).

2. How does God's love relate to obedience in the Christian life? Possible Answer: God's love produces obedience, not fear. Obedience is a *response* to grace, not a way to earn it (John 14:15; 1 John 4:11).

3. Are you actively looking for God's direction in your life right now? Why or why not? Possible Answer: seeking God positions your heart to hear Him clearly (Jeremiah 29:13; Matthew 6:33).

4. What might God be asking you to obey that feels uncomfortable or inconvenient? Possible Answer: God often calls you to trust Him beyond your comfort, knowing His plans are good (Proverbs 3:5-6; Matthew 2:14).

5. What is one simple step of obedience God may be leading you to take this week? Possible Answer: obedience does not require a big leap, just faithfulness in the next step (James 1:22; Luke 16:10).

GOSPEL CONNECTION

At the heart of this passage is the gospel. God showed His love by sending His Son, Jesus, to live, die, and rise again so you could have life (1 John 4:9-10). Jesus is not just a guide; He is your Savior.

If you are a believer, you are called to keep repenting of self-reliance and believing God's promises daily. Obedience flows from a heart that continually trusts the gospel (Galatians 2:20; Philippians 1:6).

If you are not yet a believer, you are called to repent of your sin and believe in Jesus. Turn from trusting yourself and place your faith in Christ alone for forgiveness and new life...Jesus loves you! (Mark 1:15; Romans 10:9).

God's love does not leave you where you are; it leads you forward. If God loves you enough to speak, He loves you enough to lead. The question is not whether God is speaking, but whether you are willing to follow. So, follow Him in every area of your life with your whole heart...It not only matters in this life but in the life to come as well!

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Please see our **Advent Devotionals** through December 25, 2025.