

Northland Church

Digging Deeper: Journey to Bethlehem — Follow the Bread Crumbs

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THE MAIN THEME

God rarely drops us instantly at the destination; instead, He leaves **breadcrumbs** that lead us to Himself. Bethlehem—“the House of Bread”—is not ultimately a place but a **Person**. God draws people to Jesus through faithful lives, fulfilled promises, and a growing hunger for something more. When we follow the breadcrumbs God has placed throughout history and in everyday life, they always lead us to Christ—the true Bread of Life.

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Matthew 2:1–2

“After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.’”

WHAT NOT TO MISS

1. Someone Showed You the Bread

God often uses faithful people to leave breadcrumbs that lead others to Jesus. The Magi didn’t stumble onto Bethlehem by accident—they were guided by a legacy of faith built through faithful obedience.

Faithfulness reminds us:

- Integrity in ordinary life matters
- God uses obedience to shape future generations
- Lives lived for God leave lasting influence

Your life is a letter from Christ that others can read. (2 Corinthians 3:2–3)

2. A Life Full in the Lord Leaves Breadcrumbs

A satisfied life in Christ becomes spiritually attractive.

A life full in the Lord is marked by:

- Satisfaction in Christ
- Compassion, generosity, and forgiveness
- Humility and repentance
- Prioritizing Jesus and His people
- Deep love for Christ

Joy in Jesus creates spiritual hunger in others.

3. God Has a Track Record of Faithfulness

God has an unmatched history of keeping His promises. Across generations, He has proven Himself faithful, trustworthy, and true.

When we look at God's past faithfulness, it strengthens our confidence in His present work and future promises.

4. Fulfilled Promises Demand a Response

At some point, every person must respond to Jesus—not just as an idea, but as Savior and King.

Faith is not passive. When we encounter God's truth, it invites movement, worship, surrender, and trust.

5. Hunger Is the FinalBreadcrumb

The Magi followed their hunger all the way to Jesus.

True worship flows from:

- **Perspective** — recognizing who Jesus is
- **Posture** — surrendering ourselves
- **Position** — submitting our lives
- **Praise** — responding with joy
- **Present** — offering our lives

What (or who) you worship reveals **where you go to get your bread**.

LIFE APPLICATION

God may be using someone else's faithfulness—or even your own—to draw people toward Jesus. This week, reflect on both sides of the journey:

Who helped lead *you* to Christ?

And who might God be calling *you* to influence through your life?

Follow the breadcrumbs—and leave them behind for others.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

MONDAY — The House of Bread

Read: Micah 5:2; John 6:35

Reflect: Bethlehem points us to a Person, not a place.

Pray: “Jesus, satisfy my hunger with Your presence.”

TUESDAY — Faithfulness Leaves a Legacy

Read: Daniel 6:1–10

Reflect: Integrity today can shape faith tomorrow.

Pray: “Help me live faithfully where You’ve placed me.”

WEDNESDAY — A Life Others Can Read

Read: 2 Corinthians 3:2–3

Reflect: Your life tells a story about Jesus.

Pray: “Write Your grace clearly through my life.”

THURSDAY — Trust the Track Record

Read: Daniel 7:13–14

Reflect: God keeps His promises across generations.

Pray: “Strengthen my faith through Your faithfulness.”

FRIDAY — Follow the Hunger

Read: Matthew 2:1–12

Reflect: Hunger leads to worship when we follow God's leading.

Pray: “Lead me fully to You—and make me hungry for nothing less.”

FACILITATOR TIPS

- Ask: “Who helped lead you to Jesus?”
- Emphasize faithfulness as mission, not spotlight.
- Encourage reflection on both receiving and leaving breadcrumbs.

- Invite testimonies of how God used ordinary obedience.
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THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Identify one intentional way your life can point someone toward Jesus this week—through integrity, generosity, forgiveness, or testimony. Leave a breadcrumb and trust God to use it.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who left spiritual breadcrumbs that helped lead you to Christ?
 2. Why is faithfulness in everyday life so powerful?
 3. What does your life communicate about what satisfies you most?
 4. How does remembering God's faithfulness strengthen your faith today?
 5. Where might God be calling you to leave breadcrumbs for others?
 6. What does it mean to be truly satisfied in Christ?
 7. How does spiritual hunger lead us toward worship?
 8. How can our group encourage one another to live faithfully?
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PRAYER POINTS

CONNECT

Thank God for faithful people who pointed you to Jesus.

CARE

Pray for those who are spiritually hungry or searching.

CULTIVATE

Ask God to deepen satisfaction in Christ alone.

COMMISSION

Pray that your life would point others to the Bread of Life.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, thank You for leaving breadcrumbs throughout history and in our lives that lead us to Jesus. Help us follow You with trust and hunger, and help our lives point others toward the true Bread from heaven. May we be satisfied in Christ and faithful in leaving a trail of grace behind us. Amen.