PART 1

2012 AD
THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

DISCOVERY

Hopeful Yet Challenging

In our "2012 AD" journey, we are imagining we are one of the twelve – entering into a real relationship with Jesus. This second section (Discover) is comparable to the process of dating. We're basically sitting down with Jesus and saying, "Tell me about yourself…" After he selected his twelve disciples, the first thing Jesus said to them was words of encouragement known as The Beatitudes. He's saying that those who are humble will be blessed. He then challenges people to even higher standards (Matthew 5) and challenges those who seek attention for their acts of spirituality (Matthew 6). Basically, Jesus is saying, "I connect with the humble, not the proud. I will give hope to the humble and challenge the proud."

Scripture: Matthew 5:1-6:18

Reflection:

Ask Questions:

1. Describe a memorable dating experience. It could have been your worst date… most interesting… most humorous…

2. If you have a new person in your life say "Tell me about yourself," what would be your first response – in just a few sentences?

3. Can you think of a time when you were humbled without your consent? How would you describe your relationship with God through that experience?

4. Can you think of a time when you humbled yourself intentionally? Perhaps you forfeited credit or attention for something. How do you feel about that decision now?

5. How would you describe your struggle with pride? Do you have a handle on it? When does it seem to show up most?

6. Jesus gives hope to the humble and he challenges the proud. Which of these two do you think Jesus most wants to give you today?

Read for next week: Matthew 5–7 (to reinforce this week), Luke 24