



Session 5: The King's Expectations
Suggested Week of Use: January 3, 2016
Core Passage: Matthew 5:1-16

News Story Summary

NASA reminded us that we were greeted by a full moon on Christmas morning. This was the first full moon to occur on Christmas Day since 1977. December's full moon, the last of the year, is called the Full Cold Moon because it occurs during the beginning of winter. The moon's peak this year occurred at 6:11 a.m. EST. The next time we should expect to see a full moon on Christmas Day is 2034.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the term “Christmas full moon”.)

Focus Attention

Relay the story above. Ask: *Did anyone see the full moon on Christmas? Tell us about it?* After allowing for response, ask: *What is the source of the moon's light?* Point out that the moon actually puts out no light of its own, but simply reflects the sun's light. Comment that in previous sessions (2 and 3), we celebrated the arrival of God's Son who came to bring God's light into our dark world. We, who were lost in darkness and sin, can now bring light into the world by reflecting the Light, Jesus Christ.

Explain that today's sessions, the King's Expectations, helps us to better understand what it means to provide that much needed light and how we can do this.

Challenge

Remind the group about the full moon on Christmas this year. Challenge them to evaluate their success in bringing light to our world. Ask them to choose one of the eight characteristics identified by Jesus in today's Scripture, which they can display in their lives to help others see their need for Christ. Remind them that Jesus will provide the light; we called on to simply reflect it.