



## Liberty LifeGroups Discussion

# The Gift (part 1)

Nov 22, 2020

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This Discussion Guide is prepared to help believers apply the truths of Scripture to life. As you prepare, make sure you have read the Scripture text and listened to the Sermon. If you missed the Sermon, go to [www.experienceliberty.org](http://www.experienceliberty.org) and select the Sermon title listed above.

### Bible Verses; Matthew 2:1-11

- How excited are you at Christmas?
- Do you still have the excitement of Christmas as when you were a child?
- Why don't you like fruitcake?

What is the gift of Christmas is really all about?

**Matthew 2:1-2** *Now **after** Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been **born King** of the Jews? For we have seen **His star** in the East and have come to **worship Him.**"*

Note the expression of time **after**. The question is how long after Jesus was born? If we compare Matthew 2:1 with Matthew 2:7 and Matthew 2:16 this suggests that that the wise men evidently arrived around two years *after* the birth of Jesus. Why else would Herod kill all the male infants two years or younger?

- Where does the idea that Jesus was an infant when the wise men appeared come from?
- What does this say about correct Bible interpretation and knowledge?

Think about how difficult it must have been for these wisemen to travel. Possibly they encountered difficulties and weariness on their journey. They prove to us the truth of the old saying, "Where there is a will there is a way." It would be good for all professing Christians to be ready to follow the wise men's example.

- Where is our self-denial?
- What pains do we accept to get to Jesus?
- What diligence do we show about following Christ?
- What does our religion cost us?

*Magi (wise men)(magos) is derived from the Persian word magus meaning "great" (thus "great, powerful men") and in the plural ("magi") as in Mt 2:1, 7, 16, magi referred to the high priestly caste Persians (also Medes and Babylonians) who are affectionately called the "wise men."*

Note the expression of The Child's **kingship**. Jesus wasn't given another person's kingdom. He was born King. Jesus was not a prince but a king!

- What was symbolic of the gold the wise men brought to Jesus? In the Gospels the words king or kingdom are mentioned over 100 times. What should that tell us about Jesus?
- If you had the opportunity to meet Jesus, what gift would you bring?

- If gold is meant for a king, and it indicates the best gift you can offer, consider what your Christianity has brought to the king. Have you given your best?

Note the expression **to worship Him**

- What does worship mean?
- How do you worship Jesus in your life? Do you worship Him in your Work? Talk? Walk? Deeds?

Note the expression **His Star**

Genesis tells us that through Christ creation came into existence. Isaiah refers to Christ in Isaiah 40:26 *“Lift up your eyes on high: Who created all these? He leads forth the starry host by number; He calls each one by name. Because of His great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.”*

- Look up tonight at the starry sky and see the power of Christ, who came as a baby, to show us the power of love and reflect on who Jesus is.
- Imagine how Herod must have felt when not only did the magi proclaim this child as the King of the Jews, but this King had his own star! How does power corrupt a man?
- When the wisemen saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. Have you ever been to a black Friday sales event? How much joy did you see?

***Think about and discuss these points about the birth of Christ:***

**Jesus, the Son of God Himself, being born in a smelly manger**

- What does that tell us about Jesus’s beginnings and its implications to all peoples?

**Herod decreed the need to slaughter all children under two years of age.**

- What do you think Mary and Joseph thought of the attack?
- How did they bear the weight of it...was it because of their son?

**The visit of the wise men showed that the foreign relationships of nations were affected.**

- Did you ever consider the enormity of the birth of Christ and its effect on the world?
- Do you think Mary and Joseph recognized Jesus as the world changer?
- Isn’t it interesting that when Jesus, before performing His first miracle, was raising a ruckus?

**There was the uproar of Herod’s household traumatically affecting the lives of both Joseph and Mary**

*Matthew 2:3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.*

- Do Christians have to face some inconveniences from those who don’t believe?
- Do you think there are people who dislike Christmas because of Jesus’s birth and why?
- What would be troubling about the birth of Jesus not only to Herod but to all Jerusalem?