

Community Group Question Guide

Matt 2:1-12 – The Wisdom of Christmas

- 1** Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem,
- 2** saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”
- 3** When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him;
- 4** and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.
- 5** They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:
- 6** *“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
 are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
 for from you shall come a ruler
 who will shepherd my people Israel.”*
- 7** Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared.
- 8** And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.”
- 9** After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was.
- 10** When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.
- 11** And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.
- 12** And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way. -- ESV

Who / what are these Wise Men?

Prior to the scene in young Jesus’ home, who are the three main characters in this story?

Compare and contrast them – their backgrounds, their priorities and their reactions to the news of Messiah’s arrival.

Why would Matthew, writing specifically to a Jewish audience, so feature these pagan priests from the East?

How did the gifts of the Magi bless Jesus’ family? Hint: open book test, OK to read ahead!

How do you react to the news of Messiah’s arrival?

What would you like God to do in you through this passage?