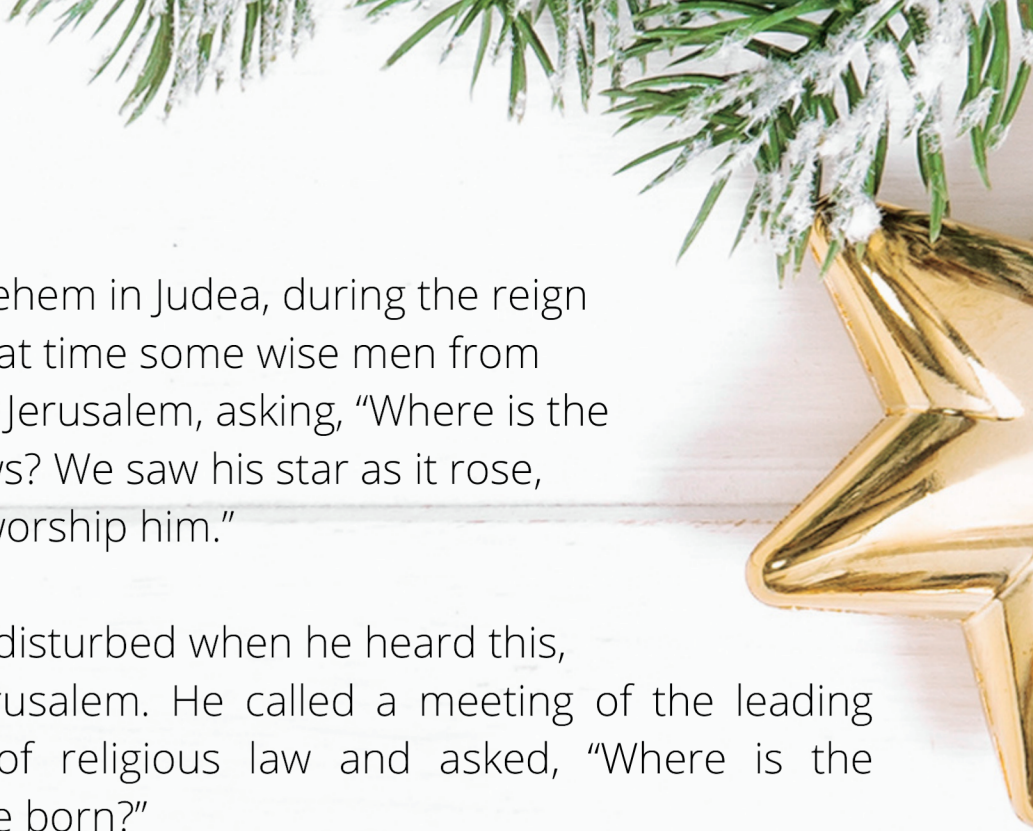


Advent 2022 - Week 4

# Wise Men

**Matthew 2:1-12**





Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him."

King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?"

"In Bethlehem in Judea," they said, "for this is what the prophet wrote: 'And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.' "

Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. Then he told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!"

After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.

Matthew 2:1-12 NLT





Advent 2022 - Week 4- Day 1

# Wise Men

**Read Matthew 2:1-12**

Recently, we taught an eight-week Bible study to a lovely group of women on the book of 1 Corinthians. Around the fifth week, the writer began encouraging everyone to keep pressing forward in the study. Knowing that it's an extra-busy season, now seems a great time to encourage you to keep going. **You are doing great!** Keep spending time with the Lord! May you feel His presence as you open His word and as you communicate prayerfully with the Father.

This week may be overfilled with activities. Try your best to:

- Set aside purposeful time to read the scriptures about the birth of Jesus.
- Examine your hearts, prayerfully asking the Lord to help you respond to His call with deep-rooted faith.
- Praise the Lord for being Immanuel ~ an ever-present and loving God.

This week we will closely observe the wise men in Matthew 2:1-12. Read and reread their story. Remember to ask God for fresh eyes and an open heart. Be attentive to the actions of the Magi. They quickly reveal to us why they are seeking Jesus...

*"We saw his star as it rose,  
and we have  
come to worship him."*

# Wise Men

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him." Matthew 2:1-2

**The wise men have arrived on the scene, and they pose what question in verse 2?**

**What prompted their journey to Jerusalem?**

**What was their purpose for coming?**

Are you searching for Jesus? In a world filled with distraction, chaos, pain, and heartache, it can be difficult to keep our focus on our Savior. Even in a season that we set aside to celebrate our Newborn King it is easy to get lost. The wise men had a guide and so do we. The Lord will light the way as we come with hearts prepared to worship. Spend the remainder of your quiet time in worship by writing a prayer on the next page.

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Advent 2022 - Week 4- Day 2

# Wise Men

**Reread Matthew 2:1-12**

King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?" Matthew 2:3-4

While our focus is on the wise men, we have to pause a moment to consider King Herod. According to my Study Bible, "King Herod was greatly disturbed because he feared this child would rival him as the king of the Jews."

Fear seems to guide the actions of many. In this case, fear was leading someone in a prominent position, first to ask questions and then to concoct a plan to protect his station and power.

**Record all the ways King Herod reacts in verses 3-8:**

# Wise Men



## Record verse 8:

**The NLT version of verse 8 contains these words:** As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.

Reread Matthew 2:2 and recall why the Wise Men said they were seeking Jesus. Isn't it interesting that King Herod would use the same reason to prompt the Magi to return with a report? Very crafty and cunning, right? I am reminded that those are traits of the enemy, Satan. Thankfully, there is a star shining brightly and the Magi continued to follow where God is leading them.

Before we go deeper into the passage, let's pause and ask ourselves:

- Are there things or people that are keeping me from seeking Jesus? What/Who are they?
- What is my current response when I feel threatened and afraid?
- What can I do to keep in step with where God is leading?



...And the star they had  
seen in the east guided  
them to Bethlehem.  
It went ahead of them  
and stopped over  
the place where  
the child was.

MATTHEW 2:9





# Wise Men

## **Record verse 10:**

Verse ten tells us the wise men were overjoyed. Joy is a gift of the Lord near and dear to my heart. Because of Jesus there is joy. It is a gift unlike anything the world offers. Let's recall the words of the angel to the shepherds in Luke 2:10: "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people." This joy...this great joy changes things for everyone. Because Christ was born to save the world, we rejoice! We are no longer bound by sin and shame. Come and let us bow before him and worship.

## **Record verses 11:**

The NLT says they opened their "treasure chests". When I read this, I consider my heart. *Is your heart open and ready to worship Jesus this season?* I admit that often I give more thought to the gifts I want to buy others than those I want to lay before my King. Let's take a purposed and holy pause to spend time in worship and prayer. You can listen to a song or two from the bonus section or use the next page to journal your prayer.

Father,

Amen



## *The wise men~*

They set out on a two-year mission, traveling only at night. It couldn't have been easy. Their hope for the future fueled the journey.

[biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com)



[faithfullyfollowingministries.org](http://faithfullyfollowingministries.org)



Advent 2022 - Week 4- Day 4

# Wise Men

**Reread Matthew 2:1-12**

The wise men were determined. Their journey was long and when they arrived at the destination marked by the "star of wonder" they found a humble house. Inside, Mary was present with Jesus. There was no royal fanfare, but there was a king. The One King that was long awaited! The wise men did just as they had said. They knelt to worship him. **God was with them, and their response was worship.**

**Record verse 12 and underline who was guiding the wise men.**

God continued to guide the steps of the wise men. Just as he led Joseph and Mary in the days after the birth of Jesus, He also led the Magi. God is with us today and He will lead us when we keep our hearts and minds set on Him. *Uncertainties, fear, or manipulation from others, are no match for the Lord.* But we, like those before us, must listen the God, heed His call, and respond with deep-rooted faith as we place our hope in Him alone.

Advent 2022 - Week 4- Day 5

# Wise Men

**The response of the wise men teaches me to**

Scripture to remember:

**The response of the wise men reminds me to be**

Scripture to remember:

**The response of the wise men encourages me to**

Scripture to remember:



Advent 2022 - Week 4

# Bonus Section





## WEEK 4

# PLAY LIST

listen using your favorite music source and  
prayerfully reflect, praising God in response

NOEL- CHRIS TOMLIN WITH LAUREN DAIGLE  
- HEARTS OF SAINTS

"NOEL, NOEL, COME AND SEE WHAT GOD  
HAS DONE"



HOW MANY KINGS- DOWNHERE

"BRINGING OUR GIFTS FOR THE NEWBORN  
SAVIOR, ALL THAT WE HAVE, WHETHER  
COSTLY OR MEEK, BECAUSE WE BELIEVE"



THE NATIVITY STORY - "COME AND  
WORSHIP" - BEBO NORMAN

"COME AND WORSHIP, COME AND WORSHIP,  
COME AND WORSHIP, WORSHIP CHRIST THE  
NEWBORN KING"



GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN - ANTHEM  
LIGHTS

O, STAR OF WONDER, STAR OF NIGHT,  
STAR WITH ROYAL BEAUTY BRIGHT,  
WESTWARD LEADING, STILL PROCEEDING,  
GUIDE US TO THY PERFECT LIGHT."



# What Now?

- Continue to set aside purposeful time to read the scriptures, verse by verse.
- Continue to examine your hearts, prayerfully asking the Lord to help you respond to His call with deep-rooted faith.
- Continue to praise the Lord for being Immanuel ~ an ever-present and loving God.

As you read God's word, take time to be observant of the responses of others documented in the Bible. Use the study techniques we have presented in this Advent study when you are studying anyone in the scriptures.

Remember, a purposed and holy pause is the time we take to invite God to guide our responses. This time allows God to speak to our heart as we faithfully follow Him wherever He leads.







Father,

You are worthy & wonderful.  
We lift our voices to  
praise you.

We come to worship you!  
Let the sound of your  
children rejoicing glorify you.  
Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord  
God, Almighty.

We rejoice in the God of  
our salvation.



Amen

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