



Wise Men and a Foolish King

Pastor Jeff Bucknam | Matthew 2:1–12

NOTE: As a guide, use these questions to help with group discussion. Not all questions are needed. Select the ones that will best serve your group as you grow in Christ together through His Word. Soli Deo Gloria.

ICE BREAKER:

What is your favorite Christmas Day tradition?

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT IN CONTEXT:

Matthew places Herod and the magi side by side. What did we learn about Herod and the Magi in the message? What contrast is he trying to highlight through their parallel responses?

CONNECTING TO JESUS AND HIS GOSPEL:

How does Matthew 2 prepare us for the kind of King Jesus will be?

How does Herod's fear and self-preservation contrast with the wise men? How does it contrast with Jesus and His willingness to lay aside His rights and privileges in Philippians 2:5-11?

LIVING OUT THE TRUTH:

Where do you find yourself holding back from fully submitting to Jesus' kingship because it feels like too much to give up? Do you approach Jesus as a helpful addition...or as the true King who has rights over you?

PARENTING MOMENT AND FAMILY FOCUS:

Read the passage as a family. Write out a comparison and contrast of King Herod and the Wise Men in the story. Talk about how we as a family submit to King Jesus and live with wisdom.

CHRISTMAS AT HARVEST

BIRTH OF THE King

This page gets us into the text for the next sermon. The more familiarity we have with God's Word, the better we can see God and all that He has for us.

In the days leading up to Christmas Eve, set aside a few minutes to read the text and reflect on these questions. A prayer to start: 'Open my eyes that I may behold wonderful things out of your law' - Psalm 119:18

- 1. Describe Herod's motivation. What does that reveal about his character?**
- 2. What does the Old Testament prophecy about the Christ being born in Bethlehem reveal about that baby's special purpose (see Matthew 2:4-6)?**
- 3. In this chapter, Joseph is met by angels a couple more times. What do Joseph's actions after those meetings reveal about his character?**
- 4. What in this text confuses you?**
- 5. What in this text compels you?**
- 6. Matthew 2 contains some great heights of wonder (baby Jesus!) as well as some great depths of evil (Herod killing baby boys). Pray for God's justice to restrain the evil in our world. Pray for God's mercy in bringing people to himself. Pray to God in thankfulness, that baby Jesus has grown, has conquered death through His crucifixion and resurrection, and will return one day to end all evil and to be with His people forevermore.**