

December 17, 2023

## Wise Men Follow Jesus Matthew 2:1-12 Pastor Kirk Gambrell

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### Using This Study

#### ❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

#### ❷ EXPLORE His Word

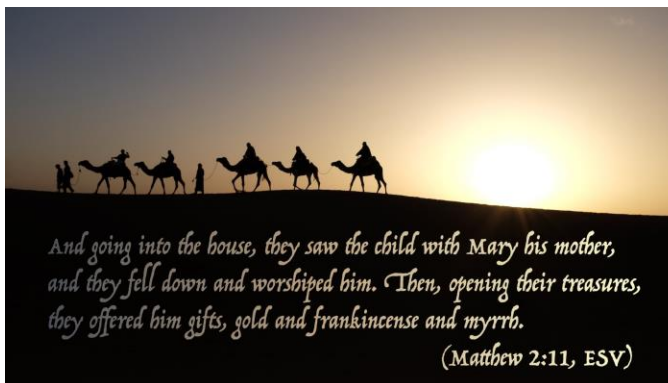
What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

#### ❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



The Christmas season is in full swing, and we will be looking at a passage surrounding the birth of Jesus. Matthew Chapter 2 tells us about the wise men that come looking for Jesus. They are from far away countries that have journeyed a long way to find the child. What is it that made it worth it for them to travel so far to find Jesus? Join us this week as we look at the passage to see an example of a true pursuit of Christ.



## The Visit of the Wise Men

**2** After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, in the time of King Herod, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> saying, "Where is the one who is born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> After assembling all the chief priests and experts in the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup> "In Bethlehem of Judea," they said, "for it is written this way by the prophet:

***<sup>6</sup> 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are in no way least among the rulers of Judah, for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'***"

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod privately summoned the wise men and determined from them when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and look carefully for the child. When you find him, inform me so that I can go and worship him as well." <sup>9</sup> After listening to the king they left, and once again the star they saw when it rose led them until it stopped above the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star they shouted joyfully. <sup>11</sup> As they came into the house and saw the child with Mary his mother, they bowed down and worshiped him. They opened their treasure boxes and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> After being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back by another route to their own country.

**🕒 EXAMINE His Word (Observation)** (For personal preparation)

**What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details from this passage.**

Make 10 of your own observations from this passage. Avoid jumping to make interpretive decisions or drawing applications. Save those for the sections that follow. At this point just observe this passage and what it says. Look for things that are emphasized, repeated, and what stands out to you. Look at the verbs, what actions are in the text? Who is involved in the text? There is no right or wrong answer, just list 10 things you see in the text.

1.

2.

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9.

10.

**2 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation)** (For Community Group discussion)  
**What does God MEAN?**

1. Why did the wise men come looking for Jesus?
2. How did the wise men find Jesus?
3. How did King Herod know where Jesus would be born?
4. In verse 10 why was there joy in seeing the star that would lead to Jesus?
5. Why did the wise men worship Jesus, King of the Jews, when they were not Jewish?
6. What do you think the wise men thought about the warning in the dream?



Summarize your thoughts on the passage

**Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...**

*Sermon Notes*