

Scripture Passage: Matthew 2: 1-12

Story Point: Contrary to most traditional Nativity scenes, the visitation of the Magi (or “Wise Men”) did not take place directly after the birth of Jesus, but was a separate event. We aren’t sure exactly when it took place, but Jesus was no longer a newborn. These men were not quite kings, but likely priests in an Eastern temple, and studied astronomy and signs. These men were not Jewish, but they knew something about the Scriptures, as they recognized the star’s significance. God revealed Himself to ALL people, even those far from the faith and physical space of the Jews. The Magi were willing to travel quite a distance, at great expense, to find and worship Jesus.

Herod, a jealous king, grew a little nervous. He didn’t like the sound of another king coming to Israel, so he questioned the Magi. They explained that they had been guided to Bethlehem, and knew of the prophecy from Micah that promised Bethlehem would be a significant place. Herod didn’t want to worship Jesus...he wanted to get rid of him! He thought Jesus was a threat to his throne. But the Magi went on their way and found the star near the place where Jesus was. The star shone on Jesus, telling the Magi where to find him. The Magi were excited to finally reach their destination! They worshiped Jesus and brought him special offerings out of their joy and gladness. The Magi followed the star and were rewarded to find Jesus, the Savior of the whole world. Then God spoke to the Magi again, giving them a dream that warned them not to return to Herod. God was protecting Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

- What do you know about stars? Do you ever look at the night sky to find special stars or constellations? How did God use a star to guide people in this passage?
- Have you ever taken a long trip? What do you have to do to prepare? How was your journey similar to and different from the journey of the Magi?
- What would you do if you came to the end of a long journey and found what you were looking for? What would you bring as a gift if you went to see Jesus as a baby?
- The Magi responded to Jesus’s birth with joyful worship. What should our response to Jesus’s birth be?



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