



Topeka Bible Church
Lighten Up Your Holiday #3: The Christmas Star
Community Group Study Questions
Matthew 2:1-12 and selected passages

1. Who were these "magi" or "wise men" (*Matthew 2:1*)? Where did they come from and why did they come to Jerusalem before Bethlehem? How long after Jesus' birth (*Luke 2:4-7*) do you think they came?

2. What is significant about these Gentile magi coming to see the King of the Jews (*Philippians 2:9-11; Revelation 17:14*)? How did the magi follow a "star" anyway? Was this a star or perhaps something else (*Exodus 13:21*)?

3. What is ironic about the magi asking Herod the King where the "King of the Jews" is (*Matthew 2:2*)? Why was Herod concerned (*Matthew 2:3*)? How would Jesus' reign differ from that of Herod (*Jeremiah 23:5-6; Luke 1:32-33*)?

4. How long had the Jewish leaders known that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem (*Matthew 2:5-6; Micah 5:2; John 7:42*)? Why did they not travel to Jerusalem when they learned of the birth of Jesus from the wise men?



5. Why was Herod so concerned with the details of the star's appearing and the location of the Child King (*Matthew 2:7-8, 16*)? Why did the magi rejoice when they saw the star settle over Joseph and Mary's house (*Matthew 2:9-10*)?

6. What is the magi's response to seeing the child Jesus (*Matthew 2:11*; cf. *Psalm 72:10-11*)? Is it odd to worship a child? Why is their response completely appropriate (*Ephesians 1:20-21*)? What is significant about the gift of myrrh that they brought to Jesus (*Mark 15:23-24*; *John 19:39-40*)?

7. How can you emulate the example of the magi this Christmas season? Does the Christmas Star expose your fear? Does it reveal your complacency? How should we respond to what (or Whom) the star points us to (*Romans 12:1-2*)?

Memory Verse:

"After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."

(Matthew 2:11, NASB)