

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching out to leaders who can change the world.

THREE SEEKERS?

December

INTRODUCTION

Why do you give gifts at Christmas?

EXPLORATION

Note: The Wise Men were the professors and philosophers of their day, originating from the country we now call Iraq. These professionals were brilliant and highly educated scholars who were trained in medicine, history, religion, prophecy and astronomy. Our modern word “magistrate” is a direct descendant of the word magi. They were also trained in what we would call astrology. Back then, astrology was connected with people’s search for God. They were highly influential men who served as advisors to the king. There may have been as many as 300 people in their caravan.

Read Matthew 2:1-12

1. When did the Wise Men arrive?
2. Why were they traveling? What obstacles did they have to overcome to get to Jerusalem?
3. Why did they go to King Herod? How did they get an audience with him?
4. What title did the Wise Men give to Jesus?
5. What type of King were the Jews (and Herod’s advisors) expecting?
6. What was Herod’s reaction?
7. Who answered their question? Why didn’t they go to Bethlehem?
8. What was Jesus home town? What difference does it make that he was born in Bethlehem?
9. What was the Wise Men’s reaction to the news?
10. What do you think was going through their minds when they finally met Jesus?

Note: The gifts they bring are expensive and represent a worthy tribute. Gold is one of the rarest and most expensive metals. It represented the wealth and power of a king. Frankincense was used in the temple worship of the Lord. It represents the infant’s deity--He is truly God born in a human body. Myrrh is a kind of perfume made from the leaves of a rose. It was used in beauty treatments, but when mixed with vinegar it became an anesthetic. After a person died, myrrh was used to anoint the body and prepare it for burial. John 19:39 tells us that after Jesus died, his body was wrapped in linen along with 75 pounds of myrrh and other spices. The gift of myrrh then, pictures his suffering and death.

11. Gold pointed to his majesty . . . for he is king. Have you turned over ownership of everything you have to Jesus?
12. Frankincense pointed to his deity . . . for he is God. Have you turned over your hopes and future to Jesus?
13. Myrrh pointed to his humanity . . . for he was destined to suffer and die. Have you turned over your pain and heartache to Jesus?

APPLICATION

- If the Wise Men could find Jesus, so can others. The bright star was their travel guide. How can you be a guide to Jesus?
- Many people expect God to come looking for them, to explain himself, prove who he is, and give *them* gifts. But those who are wise still seek and worship Jesus today, not for what they can get, but for who He is. How can you appreciate Jesus for who He is this Christmas?