

# Christmas Messengers

## Strangers Following a Star Message 2

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### ► Outline

“... We saw His star as it rose, and we have come to worship Him.”

**Matthew 2:2 (NLT)**

#### A. Introduction

(Psalm 19:1-4; Isaiah 40:26)

#### B. The message of the star...

(Matthew 2:1-11)

1. Expressed an \_\_\_\_\_ message.  
(Matthew 2:1-2. C/R: Numbers 24:17; Jeremiah 10:1-2;  
1 Corinthians 9:19-23)

2. Exposed \_\_\_\_\_ of others.  
(Matthew 2:3-8. C/R: 2 Samuel 5:2; Micah 5:2;  
1 Corinthians 1:18-25; 2:14-16)

3. Enabled an \_\_\_\_\_ with Jesus.  
(Matthew 2:9-11. C/R: Deuteronomy 4:28-29;  
Isaiah 55:6; John 1:10-13; 6:37,44-45)

**Answers:** 1. understandable 2. unbelief 3. encounter

**Resource Information:** Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, a Division of Tyndale House Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved. C/R refers to a 'cross reference.' Today's outline and discussion guide are available through the Brookwood Church app.

## ► Discussion Guide

Use this guide by yourself or with friends to pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus. To connect with others, visit [brookwoodchurch.org/adults](http://brookwoodchurch.org/adults).

### Conversation Starter

What was the best Christmas gift you've given or received?

### Begin your study with prayer

Pause for a few minutes to quiet your heart and mind. Then ask God for insight and direction as you study and reflect on this week's lesson.

### Bible Study and Group Discussion

#### Read Matthew 2:1-12

1. The star was a clear sign for the wise men to follow. Describe a time you had a clear sign from God. Did you follow that leading or go in a different direction?
2. During their journey, the magi asked questions to find direction. How do you seek God's direction in your life?
3. God speaks to each of us in unique and personal ways. When have you heard from God in a way that was specific to you?
4. Herod was fearful of a new king coming to Israel. When the magi arrived, his worst fears were realized, and he wanted to kill Jesus. How do you react when given news you don't want to hear? How can you use moments like these to strengthen your relationship with God?
5. The religious leaders in Jerusalem knew all the prophecies about the coming Messiah but didn't seek Jesus when the wise men shared this news. When you knew God was intervening in your life, how did you respond? Did you act or ignore it? What was the outcome?
6. God told the wise men to change their plans and not return to Herod. They obeyed. Think of a time God changed your plans. How open were you to His direction? How did you discern it was God's voice leading you?

7. Read **Matthew 2:10-11**. The wise men demonstrated three reactions to Jesus. Pray and ask God to help you strengthen each of these in your life.

- **Joy** – When have you experienced **joy** in your relationship with Jesus?
- **Worship** – When do you experience a heart of **worship**?
- **Gifts** – What **gifts** do you give to Jesus? Do you give out of duty and obligation or out of a heart of gratitude? What's the difference?

8. Read **2 Corinthians 9:15 (NIV)**. Paul encourages us to give thanks to God for the *incredible* gift of Jesus. How would you describe this gift to someone who doesn't know Jesus? Use that description to share the Good News of Jesus with others this week.

### Spiritual Practice

*A spiritual practice is something we can do to help us live in and enjoy God's grace. Our hope is that these would become a regular part of your life, so that walking and talking with God is the most natural thing you do.*

One way you can grow closer to God is by spending time with Him. Set aside at least 5 minutes every day this week without distractions to pray and listen to God.

### Memory Verse

*However, those the Father has given Me will come to Me, and I will never reject them.*

**John 6:37 (NLT)**

### Daily Reading

Day 1: Isaiah 40:26

Day 4: Micah 5:2

Day 2: Numbers 24:17

Day 5: John 1:10-13

Day 3: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

### Prepare for Next Sunday

Next Sunday, December 18, we'll continue our *Christmas Messengers* series. To prepare, read **Matthew 1:18-25; 2:13-23**.

