

Today:
January 4, 2015

Scripture Focus: Matthew 2:1-12

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him."

King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?"

"In Bethlehem in Judea," they said, "for this is what the prophet wrote:

'And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah,
are not least among the ruling cities of Judah,
for a ruler will come from you
who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.'

Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. Then he told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!"

After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.

(Matthew 2:1-12, New Living Translation)

Notes from Worship:

How did God catch your attention? To what is God calling you this week?

Questions for Discussion:

- How would you describe your life journey? How have you worshipped Jesus through all of life's circumstances?
- Do you think the Magi understood the significance of their journey? What can they teach us about worship?

This Week: **January 5 - 10**

Scripture Readings:

Monday 1/5	Tuesday 1/6	Wednesday 1/7	Thursday 1/8	Friday 1/9	Saturday 1/10
2 Samuel 13-15	Psalms 3-4, 13, 28, 55	2 Samuel 16-18	Psalms 26, 40-41, 58, 61-62, 64	2 Sam. 19-21; Psalms 5, 38, 42	2 Sam. 22-23; Psalm 57

Questions for Reflection:

These questions are meant to help get you thinking about the readings for each day. Feel free to also use this space to jot down other questions and insights gleaned from your reading.

Monday

What do you think of David's son Absalom? What jumps out to you in these chapters?

Tuesday

The beginning of Psalm 3 says "A Psalm of David. When he fled from his son Absalom" (see 2 Samuel 15). With this in mind, what is especially striking in this Psalm?

If you were in David's place, what else would you have written?

Wednesday

What do you think of David's emotions at the end of 2 Samuel 18?

Thursday

Which of these Psalms do you resonate with the most? Why?

Friday

After reading more about David's reign, what do you think of him? Do you have a more positive or a more negative portrayal than before?

Saturday

What catches your attention in David's last words (2 Samuel 23:1-7)?

Taking Scripture to Heart:

As we go beyond Christmas and focus more on the life and teachings of Jesus, our memory text continues with **Hebrews 1:1-3a**. Let these verses dwell within you, to help you focus on Jesus Christ, the center of our faith.

Next Sunday: January 11, 2015

Theme: Jesus – His childhood

Scripture Focus: Luke 2:21-52