



His Christmas

Focus The Magi desired to see the King of the Jews and came expecting great things. We should enter His presence just as the Magi did, with expressive and extravagant worship. For they could hear God after they encountered the presence of Jesus.

Fun What is your favorite Christmas tradition? Do you have a fun tradition or one you consider sentimental? Share with the group.

Review Key Scripture: Matthew 2:1–12

1. Expectant Worship

Matthew 2:1–12; Numbers 24:17

The Magi visited Jesus when he was a young toddler. The Persian men were magicians, astrologers, and astronomers. They may have learned about the prophecy of the Messiah and His revealing star from their own Persian history. They rode 1,000 miles to be in His presence, traveling first to Jerusalem to inquire about the Jewish Scripture. They learned He was to be in Bethlehem and set out expectant to see the King of the Jews.

2. Expressive Worship

Matthew 2:10–11; Psalm 95:6; Psalm 134:2

When the Magi saw the star from the prophecy, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy! They fell down before the young Jesus and worshipped Him. In Greek, the words used to describe this action mean to fall down violently and be shattered.

3. Extravagant Worship

Matthew 2:11–12

The Magi brought the best resources from their land: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. When they experienced the presence of Jesus, they opened their

treasury and their funds for travel and gave their provision to the King. Extravagant giving was a result of their worship.

Group Dynamics Idea Paul quoted these words of Jesus in Acts 20:35, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Ask your group members to bring a wrapped Christmas ornament to exchange, and include a Bible verse for the person who receives the ornament. Take turns opening the ornaments by drawing names and watch the Word of God bless each recipient. This is a wonderful exercise in giving and connecting with each other. Ask members to keep the ornaments under a certain price point and bring an extra wrapped ornament for first-time guests.

Discuss

1. Does your heart stir in excitement toward the end of the week to come to the Lord’s sanctuary to worship with His people? Explain your anticipation for corporate worship.
2. Read Matthew 2:11. What do you think you would do if you saw Jesus here right now? Would you fall down before Him? How do you think you’ll react when you see Him in heaven?
3. Think of someone whom you really love and adore. Can you remember an occasion when you gave a gift to that person as if you couldn’t help yourself? Why do you think giving goes along with adoration?
4. Gold, frankincense, and myrrh were the best resources Persia had to offer. The Magi brought their *best* gifts. What does it mean to you to bring your best to God in worship?
5. Read Matthew 2:12. Before the Magi met the Messiah, they had to inquire about the Word of God from others. But once they had been in the presence of God they heard Him for themselves. How would you encourage someone to deepen their relationship with God through worship?

Take Home

As we conclude, remember the following:

- With great expectation, the Magi put forth great effort to see the King of the Jews.
- They expressed their adoration and worshipped extravagantly.
- After experiencing the presence of Jesus, they could hear from God.
- Consider your level of anticipation toward the presence of God.

- Take time to express your love for Him this week.
- Consider how much giving is connected to your love and adoration of others and of God.

Prayer

Lord, You are worthy of our praise and worship. Thank You for sending Your Son, Emanuel, to bring us salvation, forgiveness, and healing. Thank You for inviting us into Your kingdom. We love You and adore You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tips As this semester comes to an end, plan ahead and ask your members to invite guests to your group next semester in February. Create a flyer with your next topic and distribute copies at your last meeting for the year.