

ROCKY RIVER CHURCH
THE LOVE OF CHRISTMAS
ADVENT: WEEK #4 – CANDLE OF LOVE
HIDDEN CHRISTMAS – DECEMBER 21, 2025
JIMMY BRITT, LEAD PASTOR

Matthew 2:1-12 (NLT)

¹ 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, ²“Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.”

³ King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. ⁴He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?”

⁵ “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they said, “for this is what the prophet wrote:

⁶ ‘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.’”

⁷ Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. ⁸ 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!”

⁹ 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. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! ¹¹ 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.

¹² 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.

The BIG IDEA of today’s message:

The Christmas story reminds us that the love we are searching for is ultimately found in Jesus.

FIVE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT GOD'S LOVE:

#1. We search for love because _____.

“Wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem...” -Matthew 2:1b

“I see him, but not here and now. I perceive him, but far in the distant future. A star will rise from Jacob; a scepter will emerge from Israel.” -Numbers 24:17

#2. We often look for love in all _____.

“They 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.’” -Matthew 2:1-2

“King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem.” -Matthew 2:3

#3. God meets us _____.

“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.” -Matthew 2:9

“When they saw the star, they were filled with joy!” -Matthew 2:10

#4. The love we’re searching for _____ than we expect.

“They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.” -Matthew 2:11

#5. Finding the love of Jesus _____.

“They returned to their own country by another route.” -Matthew 2:12

This Week’s Advent Reading Guide – Theme: Love

- Day 1 – Luke 1:26-38
- Day 2 – Matthew 1:18-25
- Day 3 – Luke 1:39-45
- Day 4 – Luke 1:46-55
- Day 5 – Luke 2:1-20 (Christmas Day)
- Day 6 – John 1:9-14
- Day 7 – Romans 1:1-7

