



the Gospel of Matthew

Matthew 2:1-12 (week of Sept. 21, 2025)

Life Group Discussion Questions

***“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”
Matthew 2:6 (quoting Micah 5:2)***

Starter: Think about the Christmas nativity scene. Who is there and what are they doing? Do our nativity scenes accurately and/or inaccurately portray what was actually happening around the time of Jesus' birth? How so?

Initial Responses to the KING – Matthew 12:1-12

- Before this week's message, what was your perception of the wise men and their part in the Christmas story? Has your view changed at all after hearing the sermon?
- Was there anything in the message that surprised you or really stood out?
- The foreign wise men (or *magi*, i.e., magicians or astrologers) were likely familiar with Old Testament prophecies. How does Numbers 24:17 help us understand why they would follow a star to find a king? Additionally, read Psalms 72:8-11, 15, in the context of the whole psalm. How does this shed light on the wise men's actions in Matthew 2:11?
- What's the difference between magi and modern day magicians?
- How should our response to Jesus look like the magi's response?
- Isaiah 60:1-5 tells us that when a “light” comes to Israel it will be the time of salvation for his people and renewal for the world. This should cause the people's hearts to thrill and rejoice (Isaiah 60:5). When this “light” finally comes, who ends up responding properly and who does not (note Matthew 2:3, 10)?
- How do Herod's disposition, plotting, and actions in Matthew 2:3-8 and verse 16 already set our expectations for what is to come (see Matthew 26:3-4; 27:1-2)?
- Describe the reaction of the religious leaders to Jesus' birth? How does the reaction this reaction serve as a warning?
- Why was Bethlehem a significant location for Jesus' birth?
- Why would Matthew specifically refer to Judah in his quotation of Micah 5:2?
- How does Matthew point to Jesus' kingship in this passage?