



December 25, 2011

## Discussion Questions

### Matthew 2:1-12

**Sermon Themes:** the birth of Jesus. Learning from the wise men; Fear verses faith; Searching for the Christ child

★ indicates key questions

**Open:** Answer one of the following

1. What is your understanding of why we give gifts at Christmas?
2. What is one of the most meaningful gifts that has been given to you?

**Read: Matthew 2:1-12**

### Examine

1. Where and during whose reign was Jesus born? (1)
2. ★ What external and internal factors prompted the Magi to search for Jesus? (2)
3. ★ What did the Magi acknowledge about Jesus? What titles did they give him? (2)
4. ★ How did King Herod react to the visit of the Magi? What affected his reaction? (3-4)
5. ★ Why is it significant that Christ was born in Bethlehem? (5-6)
6. What were King Herod's instructions to the Magi? (8)
7. How were the Magi led to Christ? (9-10)
8. ★ What was the Magi's reaction when they had found the Christ? What did they give to him? (10-11)
9. ★ Why didn't the Magi report back to Herod as he had requested? (12)

### Discuss

1. ★ What did worshipping Jesus involve for the Magi? How does this influence your understanding of worship?
2. ★ What are some various "presents" we might give to Christ?
3. Through what means did God inform the wise men about Jesus and the danger of Herod?
4. Considering that we are urged to esteem God's word in our lives as authoritative (2 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 4:12) how ought we keep it in tension with other ways God may reveal truth to us?
5. How does the fact God brought to pass that which had been prophesied centuries earlier influence your understanding about Him? How does this affect you in relating to Him?
6. ★ What do you think contributed to the significant contrast between the Magi and Herod in their response to the newly born king of the Jews?
  - a. How can a competitive, prideful, or insecure spirit affect a person's behavior?
  - b. What have you found helpful in learning how to set aside competitiveness, pride and insecurity?

**Live it** *Take time as a group to quietly reflect on the following and then share with each other as led. Consider how you can encourage, pray for and support one another to live out the things that have been impressed upon your hearts through this study.*

What gift (physical, attitudinal or otherwise) do you want to give to Christ this Christmas as a gift of worship?

**Next Week (1/1)** Colossians 3:1-4