

Session 4: Wise Men Arrive

Good to Know

In today's true story, we meet a group of men called Magi. The word "Magi" often gets translated as "wise men". These might have been people who studied the stars or scholars who studied lots of books. They seem to have been wealthy, because they carried with them gold and valuable perfumes such as frankincense and myrrh.

Dig into the Passage

Read what Matthew tells us about the Magi in Matthew 2:1-2:

¹ After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

- What detail tells us that these wise men were visitors from outside the people of Israel (v 1)?

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- What did the wise men know about Jesus (v 2)? What *didn't* they know (v 2)?
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Pause to Ponder

God had promised that his Rescuer and King would be born as one of the people of Israel but would be the rescuing King for people from countries and cultures everywhere. The wise men show us God starting to keep that promise.

- What does this story remind us about the sorts of people God still wants to get to know his Son today?
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Good To Know

As we read about what happened when the wise men met Jesus, we'll come across the word "worship". In Matthew 2, it means showing that you recognise someone is king and that they are more important than you. It might involve bowing down in front of that person or kissing their hand, for example.

Dig into the Passage

Read what the wise men did after Herod sent them on their way in Matthew 2:9-11:

⁹ After they had heard the king [Herod], they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

- When they saw Jesus, what different things did the Magi do (v 11)?

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- What do their actions show they recognised about who Jesus is? How do their actions show they recognised how special—how precious—Jesus is?
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How about You?

The Magi's responses to Jesus show that...

- Jesus is King.
- Jesus is someone God invites people to get to know.
- Jesus is someone people are excited to know.
- Jesus is someone we should treat as our King—our Ruler.
- Jesus is better than the best gifts we have.

- Is that how you think of Jesus? If it is, how would someone watching your life be able to tell that this is how you think of Jesus?
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