

**Sermon Discussion Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Church Sermon Series:  
Believe It – December 11, 2022**



*This guide is a supplement to the weekly sermon. We encourage families and groups to use it. When we hear God's Word, we need to do more than listen. The Bible says, "Be doers of the word, not hearers only (James 1:22)." **Step 1: GATHER** with your family or group. **Step 2: REVIEW** and **DISCUSS** the key points and scriptures from the sermon. **Step 3: PRAY** for the prayer requests shared by your family or group.*

**DISCUSSION STARTER**

Ask your group, "When you think of the Star as a symbol of Christmas, what are some of the first images or feelings that come to mind?"

**DIGGING DEEPER 1**

**Read Matthew 2:1-2.** Ask, "Why do you think Matthew presents this part of the story?" Say, "The Magi represent several important elements for us to consider. They are seeking the Christ child, willing to do whatever is needed to find Jesus and bow before Him. They are also foreigners and Gentiles, demonstrating that God sent Jesus for all people." Ask, "What is the sad part of this particular bit of history?" Say, "The sad part of this particular bit of history is that the people who should have known the great significance of the event missed it, and the people from afar who should have never guessed it, sought and worshipped the One who came to the Jew first and also to the Gentiles."

**DIGGING DEEPER 2**

**Read Daniel 2:46-49.** Ask, "How would some of the Magi have known about the birth of the Messiah and become true seekers of God?" Say, "These Magi were living in Babylon during the time of Daniel, they were very heavily influenced by the Jews because Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, took the people of Judah into captivity. Though centuries had passed since Daniel had lived, there was still among the Magi, a remnant of God-fearing Gentiles. These Magi of the great empire of the east were still waiting for Daniel's great hope to be fulfilled. They believed it!" Ask, "How are you living your life to be an influence for others to believe in Christ?" Say, "God chose Daniel and put him in a place of influence over some men so that they could seek and worship the King of Kings. May God use us to be influencers for Christ."

**DIGGING DEEPER 3**

**Read Matthew 2:9-12.** Ask, "Why would God reveal himself to these pagan astrologers while they were in the middle of their pagan practices?" Say, "God was revealing himself to these men to draw them to Bethlehem and to Christ himself. God does this same thing in each of our lives. God reveals himself to each of us, even amid our sinful lives and practices in hopes that He will draw us to the Savior. After the Magi found the Christ child, they were full of joy and satisfaction. They believed and they worshipped Him." Ask, "How has the coming of the Messiah changed your life and the lives of those around you?"

**DOING THE WORD**

Say, "The Magi demonstrate how important it is to believe and follow Christ at any cost. The Wise men left their homes and traveled long distances at great expenses to find and worship Jesus." Ask, "What are you willing to do to follow Jesus and lead others to believe in Him?" Say, "Our job is to shine light on Christ, pointing others to Him. We give everything to seek the Lord!" Close by praying that God would help you to shine brightly for Christ and use you to draw many people to Him.