



Bible study for the week starting January 4, 2026

SHARE

What will you remember about 2025? Will you classify it as a “good year” or “bad year” in your life? Why?

READ/STUDY/DISCUSS

1. Read [Matthew 2:1-12](#). What details do we like to “fill in” to this story that aren’t actually there? The significance of this visit is evangelical in nature; the Gospel goes out to all people. What clues and context in Scripture (both Old and New Testament) tell you this is not a *shift* in God’s plan but a *fulfillment* of what was God’s plan all along?
2. If you were Mary and Joseph, you would certainly not be a stranger to unexpected happenings (angel visitations, shepherds visiting, a baby leaping in the womb, etc.). What would it have been like to be visited by the wise men how and when it happened?
3. Read [Isaiah 60:1-6](#). Epiphany is a season of light. Surveying Scripture and its images of light spread throughout, how can we apply the significance of that light to our own lives? How might we better walk in the light in 2026?
4. Read [Ephesians 3:1-13](#). Paul talks about the mystery of God’s revelation to the Gentiles. This was not an assumed thing; it required a paradigm shift for some of the leaders of the early church (especially leading up to the Jerusalem council in Acts 15) to now see those who were enemies of Israel as targets for evangelism. What happened to make this radical change not just accepted but celebrated?
5. What trends do you see happening and changing as we enter 2026? The world is changing quickly; how might God be using that to reach more people with the good news?

PRAY

Pray for the light of Christ to shine *into* our lives and *through* our lives in this new year.



HOPE LIVES HERE: WE'LL LEAVE THE LIGHT ON FOR YOU

Matthew 2:1-12 (Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 1:3-14)

January 4, 2026 – Pastor Eric Van Scharrel

An illuminated light is a universal sign of [WELCOME](#) and [HOSPITALITY](#).

It would be easy to see Epiphany as a [SHIFT](#) in God's plan, but it is best understood as the [FULFILLMENT](#) of God's plan.

It's pretty clear what kind of king they were looking for; the difference was in the reaction: was this a [PROMISE](#) to be [WORSHIPED](#) or a [THREAT](#) to be [ELIMINATED](#)?

Long before Jesus grew, did a miracle, preached a sermon, died or rose again, the wise men bowed down and [WORSHIPED](#) Jesus. Who is He? Matthew here tells you, if you're listening.

By the time the Magi got there, Jesus was not in a stable but staying in a proper [HOUSE](#). Hope lived there, and His name was [JESUS](#).

The hope of Jesus is meant to enter the homes, families and lives of [ALL](#) people.

Doors of [OPPORTUNITY](#) in 2026:

1. The [DIGITAL](#) front door
2. A premium on [FACE-to-FACE](#), in-the-[FLESH](#) connection
3. A [YOUNGER](#) generational shift
4. A return to [HOLISTIC](#) health, connecting mental, physical and [SPIRITUAL](#) health

“The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:5).

For next week, read Luke 3:15-17, 21-22.