



With Us
Derrick Shields
“Invitation to Seek Him”
December 10, 2023

Key Verses: Matthew 2:1-12

Key Thought: While those who reject Him might suppose that God is unknowable, God does make Himself known to those who are seeking Him.

Points to Consider:

- Everyone is seeking something. Are you truly seeking Jesus?
- Desiring to respond to God’s initiatives, our community has a core value of pursuing God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength— demonstrated by 1) committing daily to worship, prayer, and the Word, 2) living out our commitment not only at church, but at home, work, and play, and 3) yielding every part of our lives to the leadership of the Holy Spirit.
- The passage features a multi-faceted contrast between Herod and the magi (e.g., ethnicity, distance from the Christ, knowledge of the Scripture, posture toward God).
- Reactions of People who Reject Jesus (e.g., Herod):
 - i. 2:3: They are disturbed by (not drawn toward) Jesus. ← Herod knew Jesus was a threat.
 - ii. 2:4-6: They might know about Jesus but refuse to come to Him. ← The Jewish leaders knew the Scriptures but were unmoved by them.
 - iii. 2:7-8: They are hostile toward Jesus and deceitful concerning Him. ← Herod wanted to assassinate (not worship) Jesus.
- Reactions of People who are Seeking Jesus (e.g., the magi):
 - i. 2:9-10: They are JOYFUL! ← See 1 Peter 1:8-9.
 - ii. 2:11: They give everything to Jesus. ← Jesus was more valuable to the magi than treasures.
 - iii. 2:12: They are obedient to God. ← The magi obeyed God’s warning.
- As the star was a sign that pointed to Jesus, most of the common elements of Christmas tradition were meant to function as pointers to Jesus. ← Examples: The star on the top of the tree points to Jesus, Christmas lights point to Jesus as the light of the world, and presents to God’s gift of Himself in Jesus. → Let us reclaim one of these signs to point another to Jesus this Christmas.

Discussion Prompts:

- Describe your feelings/behaviors in view of something that you have sought deeply (not Jesus).
- What might it look like for you to deeply seek Jesus in your daily life?
- Currently, do you bear a closer resemblance to Herod or the magi? Explain.
- How might you become more like the magi?
- Close in prayer for one another.