

# Neighbor[ing]

Love where you live.

## Part 8: Biblical Block Party

January 5 & 6, 2019

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### Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> 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.”

<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

<sup>4</sup> When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

<sup>6</sup> “‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

<sup>9</sup> After they had heard the king, 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. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

### So, who exactly were they?

Magi / Wise Men / Kings

The *who* is not nearly as important as the *what*; they were spiritually curious seekers on a quest for God.

### How had their journey brought them to the house where Jesus was living?

They had journeyed far to see this child — a gift of time

They had followed his star — a gift of talent

They desired to worship him and brought him gifts — a gift of treasures

Gold — a gift for a king

Frankincense — a gift for a priest

Myrrh — a gift for a prophet and a sacrifice

When they came before Jesus, they fell down and worshiped him. In doing so, they acknowledged both his lordship and his kingship — a gift of testimony.

“‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and,

‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” –

Luke 10:27

### We often equate stewardship with loving God. But if God also told us to love our neighbor, how can we offer these same gifts to the people God has strategically placed us next to?

What gift of time can you offer to your neighbor?

What talent can you use to bless your neighbor?

What treasure can you share with your neighbor?

What testimony can you share with your neighbor?

### Choose Your Next Step

It’s a new year, and that means a new season of classes, groups, and ministries starts soon. All the details are in the new edition of CTK Life. Pick one up today or check out the online edition in the CTK App or on our website. Come back next week for Connect Weekend to meet leaders, find out more, and sign up for one of our winter opportunities to grow.

### Small Group Questions

- 1) What was the most meaningful gift you received this Christmas?
- 2) Read Matthew 2 out loud. What new details jump off the page as you hear the story again?
- 3) The journey of the magi was epic and extensive. What is the most treasured lesson you have learned about Jesus on the journey of your life?
- 4) How would you answer the four neighbor questions at the bottom of the outline?
- 5) As you look forward into 2019, what are you praying for this coming year?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?