#### **Conversation Starters**

- What are your plans for Christmas?
- What do you look forward to the most?

## Discuss

The lesson of the Magi, when it comes to Christmas and the birth of Jesus, is found in one simple idea: Wise men seek Him. And when they do, they find Him.

- Have you ever entered into a full and true search mode when it comes to Jesus?
- What do you know or believe about Jesus?
- Why is it important to study the life of Jesus?

Like the Magi, going on a true spiritual search that considers the Christian faith takes determination and courage. They took the risk, knowing that what they might find was worth more than anything else.

"When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi." (<u>Matthew 2:16, NIV</u>)

- Have you ever had to take a risk in your relationship with Christ?
- Have you ever sacrificed anything for your faith?
- Is there anything worth more to you than a relationship with the living God?

Once the Magi found Jesus, they discovered the true meaning of Christmas and a newborn King that was not of this world, but deeply spiritual in nature. They then did two things that invited Christmas deeper into their life: They worshiped Him and they gave Him gifts.

"... the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 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 their gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh." (<u>Matthew</u> <u>2: 9-11, NIV</u>)

- What does it look like to worship Jesus?
- How are you responding to Christ in your life?
- How does or can your giving at Christmas reflect giving to Christ?

# MESSAGEMEDITATIONS

MECKLENBURG COMMUNITY CHURCH'S WEEKEND MESSAGE REFLECTIONS

#### **Next Steps**

The bending of your knee to Christ is the most appropriate response we can have at Christmas time. It's the giving of honor and worship and our gifts to Christ out of response for why He came and what He did. What's your response to Christ this Christmas?

# **Continued Reading**

Read Matthew 2:<u>1-13, 16</u>.

## Prayer

God, thank you for loving us so much that you sent Jesus to us. Forgive us when we let other things crowd out why we celebrate this time of year. Help us to celebrate how we were meant to. Let the response of the Magi be our response as well.



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