

## Discussion Guide (December 24, 2023)

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Message: *Wise Men, From Expectations to Joy (Series: Wish List)*

### PRIMARY PASSAGES:

**Matthew 2:1-11:** *After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem 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." When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: '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.' " Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 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." 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. 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 gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.*

**Proverbs 8:17:** *I love those who love Me, and those who seek Me will find Me.*

**Hebrews 11:6:** *And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.*

**Luke 2:10:** *But the angel said "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people."*

### MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS: How To Turn Our Expectations Into Joy

- **S**eek Jesus above all else
- **T**urn from things that don't bring joy
- **A**cept the only gift that will bring true joy
- **R**emember to keep seeking

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some of your favorite holiday traditions? What are some of the expectations and wishes you have this Christmas season? What are some of the things that bring you joy? Where have you been searching for joy that has left you feeling empty?

2. **Read Matthew 2:1-12.** What is something new that you learned from the story of the wise men? What signs has God been sending in your life to show that He is there? Are you following the signs that God is sending you?

3. Have you accepted God's gift of His Son, Jesus? How have you found Jesus to be the only thing that brings true joy in your life?

4. **Read Proverbs 8:17 and Luke 2:10.** What can you do to keep seeking Jesus this year? What is one way that you can seek Jesus more and grow in your relationship with Him?

***Dear Heavenly Father, help us to seek You with all our hearts this Christmas.  
Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus to be the greatest gift of all.  
Help us to realize that Jesus is the only place where we can find true joy. Amen***