



The Wise Men

WEEK 2 DISCUSSION GUIDE

OVERVIEW

In the second message of *Unexpected: An Unlikely Christmas*, we are going to look at three parts of the Wise Men's unexpected journey.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Let's learn more about these wise men in **Matthew 2:1-12**: *Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, Wise Men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.'" Then Herod, when he had secretly called the Wise Men, determined from them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also." When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.*

The wise men's journey consisted of...

1. The sign | A God who speaks to, leads, and directs seekers.

God supernaturally used a star to lead the Wise Men to Jesus. They came first to Jerusalem, asking around for the King they came to worship. As each one of us move toward Christ and our destiny in God, in His mercy, God gives us unexpected signs along the way to let us know we are on the right path. God often uses many different avenues to get our attention and prod us along on our journey. God speaks to us.

In **Romans 1:20**, Paul writes of how God even uses creation to speak with us: ***For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.*** God can speak to us through nature like He did with the Wise Men. They followed the only sign they had—a supernatural wonder of God—a star led them to their King. God may use practical things in our life to bring us to Him. We should be aware of God's often unexpected signs around us.

- ❖ Has God ever spoken to you through something or someone unexpected?
- ❖ How has God spoken to you through His Word?

2. The surprise | A God who can relate and connect with us.

The Wise Men sought and searched for a king, but what they found was not what they expected. Here was Jesus, the King of kings, living a common life, in a common house, with common parents. Jesus relates to and connects with us.

- ❖ How does this truth about Jesus encourage you?

3. The surrender | A God who is worthy of our first and best.

The King didn't look the way they thought he would—they might have even been disappointed by the anti-climactic experience with the humble King Jesus—yet, they still fell and worshiped Him. God wants and deserves our best. He's trustworthy and worthy of our worship.

- ❖ What does worship look like to you?
- ❖ What are some ways we can worship God throughout our day?

LIFE CHALLENGE

We learned that God speaks to us unexpectedly and desires to connect with us in this way. Sometimes, we decide how we want Him to speak to us rather than accepting how He wants to speak to us. This season, ask God to search your heart (Psalms 139:23-24), and be open to receiving a message from Him through an unexpected messenger.

PRAYER REQUESTS & CLOSE IN PRAYER