

Announcing Christmas – Small Group Discussion Guide

The Star and the Magi

Text: Matthew 2:1–12

Warm-Up

- When you were a child, did you ever look through a telescope or stare at the night sky? What did it make you feel?
- Can you recall a time when God used something unexpected to get your attention or redirect your path?

Observation – What Does the Text Say?

1. Who are the Magi, and where do they come from (vv. 1–2)?
2. What do the Magi believe the star reveals about Jesus?
3. How does King Herod respond to the news of the star and the newborn king (vv. 3–8)?
4. What role do the Scriptures play in identifying Bethlehem as the Messiah's birthplace (vv. 5–6)?
5. What does the star do after the Magi leave Herod (vv. 9–10)?
6. How do the Magi respond when they find the child (vv. 11–12)?

Interpretation – What Does It Mean?

What Is the Star?

- What does the star's movement and guidance suggest about its purpose?
- Why do natural explanations struggle to explain the biblical description fully?
- How does understanding the star as God's messenger help clarify its role?

What Difference Did the Star Make?

- What does the Magi's long journey teach us about responding to God's revelation?
- Why is it significant that Gentiles are the first worshipers in Matthew's Gospel?
- How does this passage reveal God's heart for the nations?

Theological Reflection – What Does This Reveal About God?

- What does God revealing Jesus to outsiders teach us about His kingdom?
- How do Scripture and divine guidance work together in this story?
- Why might Matthew frame his Gospel with global worship and global mission?

Application – How Do We Live It?

You Are God's Messenger

- What does it mean to shine like a star in your daily life?
- How can ordinary faithfulness point others to Jesus?

Following the Light Requires Movement

- What risks or costs did obedience involve for the Magi?
- Where might God be inviting you to move or respond in faith?

Who's Your One?

- Who is one person God has placed in your life who does not yet walk with Jesus?
- How might you intentionally love and invest in that person this season?

Closing Prayer

Pray for attentive hearts, courage to follow God's leading, clarity about who your "one" is, and that God would use your life to guide others to Jesus.