

“WE HAVE COME TO WORSHIP HIM”

Matthew 2:1–12

Key Verse: 2:2

1. What were “the days of Herod the king” like (1a; see verses 3,13b,16)? Who came to Jerusalem, and for what purpose (1b–2)? How could they know about “his star when it rose” (see also Num.24:17)? What does their journey show us about worship?
2. Note how the word “worship” is repeated (2,8,11). What does it mean to “worship”? What would Jesus say about this (4:8–10; 15:7–9)? Who else worshiped Jesus and why (14:33; 28:9)? What role should worship play in our own life (Rom.12:1) and in our community (Phil.3:3; Col.3:16; Heb.12:28–29; Ps.96:9)?
3. How did Herod respond to the wise men’s request, and what was his real motive (3–4,7–8)? In contrast, what kind of ruler would Jesus be (5–6)? How does knowing this about Jesus help us worship him?
4. How did the wise men find Jesus, what effect did it have on them, and why (9–10)? How can we have such joy? What did they do (11)? What did their gifts mean? Why is giving an important part of our worship (6:21; 22:36–38)? After worshipping Jesus, what did they do, and what else does it say about them (12)?
5. What does these wise men’s worship of Jesus foreshadow (Php.2:9–11)? Summarize what you learn in this study about the essential elements of Christian worship. How and why should we grow as authentic worshipers?