

Christmas is celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift.

DAY 1

Read Matthew 2:1-2, NIV

After Jesus was born, wise men from the East traveled to find Jesus. What did they follow? A star! There is another passage in the Bible that talks about a star:

"A star will come from among the people of Jacob. A king will rise up out of Israel." Numbers 24:17

The "star" in this passage isn't a "what", it's a "who"! That "who" is Jesus! The wise men knew a king was coming, and that a star would show them how to find him. This star led them all the way to Jesus! How cool is that? These wise men didn't follow the GPS on their phones to get to Jesus! God used a supernatural miracle to get them there so they could celebrate Jesus!

DAY 2

Read Matthew 2:7-8, NIV

When you read King Herod's words, you might be tempted to think he had good reasons for questioning the wise men. But King Herod was being tricky. He didn't want to find Jesus so he could worship Him. King Herod wanted to get rid of Jesus. Why? Because Herod didn't want anyone else in charge. He was the king and he wanted to keep all his power.

No matter what Herod tried to do, he wasn't powerful enough to stop God's plan! Jesus wouldn't be the kind of king to sit on a royal throne like Herod. God sent Jesus to be the king of our hearts. Jesus came to make a way for us to be forgiven so we can have a relationship with God that lasts forever.

Such a big gift deserves more than just a one day celebration! That's why we should never stop celebrating the gift of Jesus!

What is one way you could celebrate Jesus today?

DAY 3

Read Matthew 2:10-11, NIV

What gifts did the wise men bring to celebrate Jesus' birth?

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While these gifts might not seem so awesome or even practical, they signified something important, because these gifts were fit for a king. And in giving them, by bowing in worship, the wise men showed that they believed this was the Messiah, the Savior God had promised to send long ago. How amazing it must have been to visit Jesus and to know you were standing in the presence of the most important King!

What gifts would you bring a king? There are so many things we could do or bring to Jesus that He would LOVE, but one of the best things we could give Jesus isn't wrapped. It's an understanding of what Jesus came to earth to do for us. God sent Jesus to die on the cross for us and forgive our sins. Jesus loves us, and the greatest gift we could ever give is to know and follow Him.

DAY 4

Read Matthew 2:12, NIV

Remember earlier this week when we talked about King Herod being tricky? Herod didn't want anyone, even a baby, to threaten his power. God warned the wise men not to return to Herod but to head home on a different route. God had a plan and nothing would get in the way!

Christmas is a chance for us to remember God's big gift, but we don't have to stop the celebration once December ends. We can celebrate Jesus every day by showing love to God and to the people around us, just like Jesus taught us to do.

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**Love God, Love Others**

What if you started the new year with a new prayer? Write the words, LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS on a card beside your bed. Each night, ask yourself, "Did I love God today? Did I show love to others?" Pray and ask God to help you celebrate Jesus every day by loving God and loving others just as Jesus taught us to do.

**Never stop celebrating Jesus.**