



## Week of January 15 - a

### Scripture: Mt 2:1-6

Main Idea: Jesus has been born and wise men, aka Magi (text doesn't say how many) came to Jerusalem bringing gifts and seeking to worship him. King Herod heard this and asked the chief priests and scribes where the Christ (Messiah) was to be born. They told him from Bethlehem was to come a ruler who would "shepherd my people Israel." **This was an early indication that Jesus would not be a typical "ruling" king, but a shepherd king.**

#### Questions

**Preschool:** What does a shepherd do to take care of his sheep? (A: He feeds them; guides them to water; protects them from wild animals) Jesus is our shepherd. (expand)

**Grade school:** Where were the wise men from? Where were they going? King Herod must have been concerned that someone was looking for a king. Why do you think that Herod was so worried that he wanted to know where this new KING was born? Was he afraid the child would take his place?

**Teen:** King Herod was troubled by hearing a king had been born. Why do you think this news bothered King Herod? What is the difference between a "ruling" king and a shepherd king? Why do you think the shepherd king (style of leading) would be better?

**Adult:** At what point in your life has God (Jesus) shepherded you most? Did you feel his protection, his concern for your daily welfare or his discipline? If you are past this time, did you thank him?

### PRAYER REQUESTS

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#### PRAY:

For God to Shepherd our life/lives, and for us to trust him more.

### Monthly Memory Verse

#### Psalm 5:8 (ESV)

<sup>8</sup> Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness because of my enemies; make your way straight before me.



## Week of January 15 - b

### Scripture: Mt 2:7-12

**Main Idea:** The wise men reach the young shepherd king (not sure how old; but in a house). They are thrilled to have found him. They fall before him in worship and give gifts to him. Ironically, these gentiles are the ones to come and **show the honor** that the savior king deserved.

#### Questions

**Preschool:** The wise men gave gifts to baby Jesus. Why do we give gifts to people?

**Grade school:** King Herod asked them to tell him where the child was. Was he going to honor the king?

**Teen:** The wise men (gentiles) were led to the place of Jesus. How does this show Jesus is the savior for all? Is there anyone who God does not want to save? In what ways can we show our honor to Jesus today?

**Adult:** What gifts do you present to our Savior? Are there things you could do that you don't? If so, why not? What do you need to do this year to be better prepared? The wise men made quite a trip to see Jesus. How do you think this visit impacted the rest of the magi's lives? Or did it?

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

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#### PRAY:

A prayer of thanks and praise for ways God has blessed your life

#### Monthly Memory Verse

##### Psalm 5:8 (ESV)

<sup>8</sup> Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness because of my enemies; make your way straight before me.