

**Encounter these verses today:**  
*circle words that you identify with,  
underline phrases or sentences you'd  
like to remember, write questions about  
the passage out to the side ...*



## The Visit of the Magi

**Matthew 2:1-12 :: (NIV84)**

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. 5 "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

6 "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel."

7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.



**"SCRABBLE: Putting It All Together" | 12.09.12**

*"Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?  
We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."  
Matthew 2:2 (NIV84)*

C H R I S T M A S



**You can listen or share this sermon online!**

# Digging Deeper

[Use these readings to prepare you for worship next week!]

**Monday:** 12.10.2012

**Prayer Focus:** Families going thru difficult times

**Passage:** Luke 1:1-25

**Insight:** We read this chapter each week so far in our Digging Deeper guide and we are going to read it again this week focusing on the story John the Baptist. As the Magi were putting together the signs in the sky with the birth of the Christ-child, Zechariah was discovering his part in the story of the Messiah.

Have you ever questioned God's plan as it was revealed to you? Of course you have—we all have! How can we better embrace the path God has for us?

**Tuesday:** 12.11.2012

**Prayer Focus:** Our Church Leadership

**Passage:** Luke 1:39-80

**Insight:** Mary visits Elizabeth and the two begin to share their stories and exchange the dreams they have for their children. Can you imagine what those conversations would have sounded like?

The calling of God often doesn't follow human logic or understanding. Neither Elizabeth nor Mary had ideal pregnancies (one is too old, one is too young). But they both embraced the path.

**Wednesday:** 12.12.2012

**Prayer Focus:** The Ministry of Upward Basketball

**Passage:** Micah 5:1-5

**Insight:** The Magi clearly had access and understanding of the Old Testament writings. As Pastor Steve spoke on Sunday, Daniel had a key role in bringing the story of Israel to the land of Persia.

God's Word can often feel overwhelming but in the end, it is perfectly written and is without error. At the end of time, we will be able to reflect on it's words and see how God had everything under control the entire time!

**Thursday:** 12.13.2012

**Prayer Focus:** Our Fusion Student Ministry (7-12 grade)

**Passage:** Matthew 2:13-23

**Insight:** This Sunday we will look at a new game to help us with the birth story of Jesus! The game Monopoly will launch us into the story of Herod the Great. He was ruler of Israel at the time that Jesus was born. He was focused on creating his own kingdom instead of serving God.

Does our world/culture reflect more like Monopoly or Christ? How can we avoid pursuing our own Kingdom and living for the Kingdom of God instead?

**Friday:** 12.14.2012

**Prayer Focus:** Our Children's Ministry (baby - 6th gr)

**Passage:** Isaiah 7

**Insight:** The Prophet Isaiah had the privilege of expressing some wonderful words about the salvation of God's people but it was coming at a time when God was really frustrated by their lack of faith and obedience. Verse 14 is easily understood from our perspective but how could it have been seen by the original hearers?

God's Word reveals all we need to know about the coming Messiah and yet it was missed by so many. Reading this passage, I'm sure we can all understand why.

iPray

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