

**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 ...*

**Matthew 2:1-12 :: The Visit of the Magi**

1 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 when it rose 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 Messiah 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 shepherd 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 search carefully 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 when it rose 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, frankincense and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

# illuminate

*Welcoming the Light of the World!*

December 11, 2011 | Pastor Terry Bate

*How does light grab your attention? Examples?*

***Reflect on this idea ...***

The Light of Jesus with either attract you ...

... or it may repel you.

***The journey of the Magi ...***

**In what ways does the Light seem attractive to you?**

**"Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light .... Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God."**

(John 3:19-21)



# Digging Deeper

[Engaging the message throughout the week]

## Monday: 12.12.2011

**Prayer Focus:** The Flushing Community

**Passage:** 1 John 2:3-11

**Insight:** *Our actions must equal our status. If we claim to live in the light and our actions appear to be that of the dark, then something isn't right. John addresses that it's easier to live one life ... one that is in the Light of Christ.*

**Questions for consideration:**

*In what ways do you live in the light?*

*In what ways do you struggle in living in the dark?*

## Tuesday: 12.13.2011

**Prayer Focus:** FCC Church Leadership

**Passage:** Isaiah 42:1-16

**Insight:** *Our Tuesdays for this series will focus on Old Testament prophesy about Jesus. Isaiah has some amazing words in this first part of chapter 42. Can you hear the love of God calling out to his people? No matter what you are going through today, you are not forsaken! (v. 16)*

**Questions for consideration:**

*In what ways does Isaiah use "light" to describe the ways of God?*

*How do you see the power of God and compassion of God working together in this passage?*

## Wednesday: 12.14.2011

**Prayer Focus:** Upward Basketball & Cheer

**Passage:** Luke 1:39-56

**Insight:** *Our Advent Season is all about preparing our hearts for the arrival of the Messiah - Jesus. Mary hears about her relative who is also pregnant and giving birth in miraculous ways. Elizabeth will give birth to John (the Baptist). Have you ever felt so blessed by God that you broke out in song?*

**Questions for consideration:**

*Can you imagine what questions Mary and Elizabeth had to have wondered about and asked each other during this visit?*

*Mary will face an amazing scrutiny back home for being pregnant without being fully married ... you'd never know based on her prayer. What does that tell you about her?*

## Thursday: 12.15.2011

**Prayer Focus:** May God Reveal His Light to You

**Passage:** Psalm 40

**Insight:** *Thursdays will be a day to read from the book of Psalms. Today is a Psalm of dependence on the Lord. We need the presence of God in every day of our lives. We need him to be the Lord of the ordinary. Jesus came embodied the ordinary - born with no position, no fanfare, no world-wide welcome ... but he came so that we could identify with him.*

**Questions for consideration:**

*What do you think about v. 8? Can you say the same thing today?*

## Friday: 12.16.2011

**Prayer Focus:** Our church worship services (12/18)

**Passage:** Hebrews 2:10-18

**Insight:** *Our focus for this Sunday will shift from the Light attracting to Light living within us. Jesus - the Light of the world - came for a specific reason and at a specific time. His mission was clear and his focus was sharp. He came to live among us and demonstrate mercy, love and true faith.*

**Questions for consideration:**

*How can you approach Jesus since he once was a man?*

*What power do you see in the Light liberating you from your life of sin and disappointment?*

*Can you see a connection between the life of Jesus and yourself that helps you know that Jesus has experienced what you are experiencing?*



*If you are interested in joining our iPray Team that will be interceding our concerns for the church, our community and nation, send Pastor Terry an email or fill out the "Get Involved" insert this morning!*