



Sermon Discussion Guide

Dec. 28 & 29, 2024

“Magic Moments”

[Matthew 2:1-12](#)

This Advent season, the “Joy to the World” sermon series has invited us to rediscover the deep and abiding joy found in the promises of God. As we navigated the challenges of waiting, longing, and hope, we’ve reflected on the transformative power of Christ’s coming—past, present, and future. Join us as we celebrate the Savior who brings true joy to the world.

PRAY & CONNECT

Open in prayer and invite the Holy Spirit into your conversation. Ask God for wisdom and discernment and trust him to guide you. Take time to recap the message or view it on [HopeOnline.tv](#). Did you have any “ah-ha” moments where you felt convicted, compelled, or inspired during the sermon? What’s been on your mind this week? Have you been able to apply the message to your everyday life?

GROW

Read [Matthew 2:1-2](#) – “Visitors from the East”

- How do you think the Magi felt when they saw the star and realized it was leading them somewhere significant? Can you relate to a moment of wonder in your life? Why do you think God chose a star to guide the Magi? What does this say about how God reveals himself to us in unexpected ways? How can you cultivate a sense of wonder in your own faith journey this week?
- How does the Magi’s willingness to follow the star challenge your trust in God’s plans? What does this story teach us about God’s desire to reveal himself to people beyond Israel? What steps can you take this week to follow God’s leading, even if the path isn’t clear?
- How do the Magi’s actions inspire you to seek Jesus more actively in your daily life? What does it mean to see Jesus as the light that leads you in the midst of darkness? How can you reflect this light to others in your relationships and actions?

Read [Matthew 2:3-6](#) – “Visitors from the East”

- What do you think Herod’s fear reveals about human resistance to change? Have you ever felt this tension in your own life?
- How does this passage encourage you to see God’s plan unfolding even when it feels hidden?
- What does this passage teach you about seeking truth in God’s word rather than relying on your own understanding?
- How does Herod’s self-centered response challenge you to consider your own motivations as a leader? What does it look like to lead others with the humility and purpose demonstrated in God’s plan through Bethlehem?

Read [Matthew 2:9-10](#) – “Visitors from the East”

- Why do you think the Magi found joy even before they reached Jesus? What does this say about finding joy on the journey?
- How does the Magi’s persistence in following the star inspire you to stay committed in your faith journey? What does it mean to trust that God is guiding you, even if the path seems unclear? How can you encourage someone else to keep trusting in God’s guidance?
- What does the Magi’s journey reveal about the joy of helping others encounter God’s light? How can you reflect the Magi’s determination by leading others with hope and purpose? What specific actions can you take to bring joy to others?

Read [Matthew 2:11-12](#) – “Visitors from the East”

- How do you think the Magi felt when they finally saw Jesus? Have you ever experienced the joy of finding something meaningful?
- What does it mean to give your best to God, as the Magi did with their gifts?
- How does the Magi’s decision to avoid Herod show their trust in God? How can you be more attentive to God’s guidance?
- How does the Magi’s journey inspire you to lead others to worship Jesus? What does it look like to give your heart and resources as an offering to God? How can you help your community live out their faith through acts of worship and trust in God?

APPLY

Pick one of the applications below to put into practice this week ...

- **Pause for wonder.** Spend five minutes each day this week reflecting on something that fills you with awe about God. It could be in nature, a relationship, or a moment of beauty. Write down one thing each day to remind yourself of God’s presence.
- **Trust God’s guidance.** Identify one area in your life where you feel “in-between” or uncertain. Pray daily this week for God to guide you, and intentionally seek his direction by reading a related passage of Scripture (e.g., Proverbs 3:5-6 or Psalm 25:4-5).
- **Step out of your comfort zone.** Take a step this week to share your faith, serve others, or use your gifts for God’s glory. For example, invite someone to church, volunteer in a new ministry, or reach out to someone in need with an act of kindness.