



**Matthew 2:1-12**

**“Respond to the King”**

### **Read Matthew 2:1-12 to refresh yourself on the story.**

1. What jumps out to you from this story? Is there anything that confuses you? What intrigues you?
2. Is there differences between the Bible account and the Christmas stories you've heard before?

Verse 3 says that Herod and all of Jerusalem was troubled by the news of the birth of the king.

1. Why do you think Herod was troubled by this?
2. Why was "all of Jerusalem" troubled? Wouldn't they be happy about the birth of their king?

Spend some time thinking about the main characters in the narrative (Herod, the chief priests and scribes, and the wise men).

### **Herod**

1. How is Herod's response similar to people in our culture? Have you met someone who has been disturbed, troubled, or angry with Jesus?
2. Why is the gospel so offensive to people? Read 1 Corinthians 1:18, 1 Corinthians 2:14, and 2 Corinthians 2:15-16.
3. How would you share the gospel with someone like this?

### **The Chief Priests and Scribes**

1. Why is the chief priests and the scribes response to Jesus so sad?
2. How could they have been so close and yet missed the one they were waiting for? Read John 5:39-47.
3. How do you see people acting like this in our day and age? How do you share the gospel with people like this?

### **The Wise Men**

The wise men were unbelievers who whole-heartedly pursued after God.

1. How can we pursue God with all of our lives? Read Romans 12:1-2, Galatians 2:20, and Colossians 3:1-4.

### **Application**

1. Honestly assess yourself. What main character in the narrative do you most resemble? How have you been responding to Jesus?
2. Spend time praying and surrendering your entire life to Jesus. Get off the throne of your life and let Jesus sit there.

**Next Week's Passage:  
Luke 2:25-35**