

**26 December 2021**

**Matthew 2:1-15 – God’s Gift**

*Question 1 - Icebreaker:* Can you remember what you got for Christmas last year, the year before – how far does your memory go back?

Presents fade but God’s gift lasts forever.

**How are you responding to God this Christmas? Learn from the Magi’s response**

<sup>1</sup> *“Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”*

*Question 2:* Reflecting on your Christmas this year, how many moments have you stopped and allowed yourself to spend time seeking God?

*Question 3:* If not, why not?

*Question 4:* What are the ways in which God prompts you to seek him out - for example through nature, relationship with others or a song...?

**Unwrapping God’s gift leads to rejoicing and great joy**

<sup>9</sup> *“And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.”*

*Question 5:* When was the last time you received God’s love and were surprised by joy?

*Question 6:* How can you give yourself time this Christmas to enable you to receive God’s love?

*Question 7:* Are there other believers who you could ask to journey with you to encourage you in your faith, trust and discipleship in God?

**Sincere and adoring worship**

<sup>11</sup> *“And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.”*

*Question 8:* God gives each of us treasures we can gift back to the Lord. What are the special gifts you would like to present to the Lord in acts of sincere and adoring worship?

*Question 9:* Be specific: plan and diarise how you can give back to the Lord.

*Question 10:* The Magi were warned by God in a dream to return home a different way. How does God want you to live in this culture and remain true to the reality that Jesus is your king and shepherd?