



# CONNECTIONS

Sermon notes December 10, 2017

## Keyverse

*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. Matthew 2:11*

## Follow Your Wonder

*Oh, star of wonder, star of might, star of royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect Light. We Three Kings*

1. When and where do you remember first hearing the Christmas story? When did you realize that Jesus lived *before* He was born on earth?
2. Look up these verses on what is called the pre-existence of Christ. What difference does it make to our understanding of who Jesus is when He was born as a baby in Bethlehem?
  - John 1:1-4, 14—
  - Micah 5:2—
  - Philippians 2:5-11—
  - John 17:5—
3. Read Matthew 2:1-12 and note all the different people and groups of people in this passage (ex - Herod). Who were they and how did each respond to the news of Jesus' birth? Why do you think each person or group of people responded the way they did?
4. God had said so much about the coming of Jesus in the Old Testament (example Micah 5:2 quoted in Matthew 2:5-6). Why do you think God used something in nature (a star) to draw the wise men to Jesus? Do you think God draws people to Jesus this way today? Give an example.
5. Money, hobbies and leisure activities, kids and family – All of these can be good. How could these things become “idols” our lives? How would we know they had?
6. What are you tempted to substitute for God in your life? What do you need to turn away from in order to turn more toward worshipping Jesus every hour of your day and every area of your life?