



SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

*"Two Ways to Respond to
the Surprise Baby"*

Matthew 2:1-12

SERMON NOTES

Record your insights & observations from this week's sermon.

GOOD BOOK ABOUT THE BIRTH OF JESUS

The First Days of Jesus by Andreas J. Kostenberger and Alexander E. Stewart

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Read *Matthew 2:1-12*. What is wrong with the American nativity that displays the 3 Kings with the shepherds on the night Jesus was born?
- 2) The Wise Men, Magi, were from the East and were Gentiles. They probably had access to the Jewish Scriptures to know who Jesus was. Read *Numbers 24:17*. What does this say about a future King and star?
- 3) There are two ways to respond to the Sovereign surprises in our lives. Herod and the Magi responded differently to the same surprise they had learned of. How did Herod respond (see *Matthew 2:3-8*)? How do we respond like Herod to the surprises in our lives?
- 4) How did the Magi respond to God's Sovereign Surprise (*Matthew 2:1-2, 9-10*)? What can we learn from their response?
- 5) The gift of gold symbolized royalty (see *Genesis 41:4; 1 Kings 10:1-13*). Gold acknowledged Christ's right to rule. What areas in your life do you need Christ to rule?
- 6) The gift of incense symbolized His deity and represents worship. Frankincense was a beautiful smelling incense that was used only for the most special occasions (*Leviticus 2:2, 15-16; Song of Solomon 3:6-7*). Take a few moments to praise the Lord for what He has done for you this year.
- 7) Myrrh represents death and the humanity of Jesus. Myrrh was used to prepare bodies for death (*Genesis 37:25; 43:11*). It was myrrh that symbolized the future sufferings of Jesus. Take a few moments to confess your sins and lay them at the cross.

FOR YOUR FAMILY

- 1) Memorize *Matthew 2:11*: "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 and of incense and of myrrh."
- 2) Read *Matthew 2:1-12*. Discuss with your family the real story of the Magi and describe who these men were.
- 3) Discuss with your family what each gift symbolized and why these men brought these gifts to Jesus (see questions 5-7 above).