

Read: Matthew 2:1-16, Hebrews 11:1, Ephesians 1:17-20

Open:

- When you think about the Christmas story, who are the characters in the Bible that come to mind? What do you see? Name and describe them.
- Describe what a Christmas morning looked like when you were a kid or with your family now.
- What is the difference between how you saw Christmas as a kid and how you see Christmas now?
- How can seeing the Christmas story through a Biblical worldview strengthen your faith?

Dig:

Read: Matthew 2:1-16

- There is a period of 400 years of silence between the Old and New Testament, describe what it could have felt like during this time in the world. (Ex. for the Leader: dark, cold, empty, silent) What do you do when God seems silent?
- How many Magi or Wise Men were there in the Christmas story? (Ex. of the Leader: The Bible never gives the exact number but three is based off of the gifts given to Jesus of gold, frankincense, & myrrh.)
- Why were the Magi/Wise Men searching for a Star?
- What was one of the traits that set apart the Magi/Wise Men? (Ex. for the Leader: They Wise, Educated, Disciplined. These men studied & new the signs of the times)
- In Matt.2:8, we see the Magi arrive to meet with Herod. What was Herod' the Great's response to the news of this new born King of the Jews?
- What is the tension between the attitude of the Magi & Herod the Great as the seek and search for Jesus? (Ex. for the Leader: One has faith & the other has fear)
- The Star guided the Magi to the Bethlehem to see Jesus. What was the attitude of their heart when they saw the Star in v.10?
- In v. 11 the Magi entered the house and saw Jesus in the arms of Mary. What was their response to Christ? (Ex. for the Leader: bowed down & worshipped & presented their gifts)
- In Luke 2:8-10, what is the significance of the shepherds in the Christmas story? Why would God include them and reveal this Good News to them?

Reflect:

- Discuss this quote: "Happiness is what happens to me, Joy is what is happening in me."
- Discuss this quote: "We want Hallmark results, all done in 90 minutes. Sometimes our faith is a journey of obedience over the long haul."
- Read: Ephesians 1:17-20.