



Part One  
Scott Hansen, Lead Pastor  
December 8, 2013

## Matthew 2:1-12

### INTRODUCTION

- \* A star symbolizes light piercing the darkness
  - Darkness = symbol of ignorance, evil, hopelessness & lostness
  - Light = symbol of truth, revelation, illumination, knowledge, righteousness & hope  
(1 John 1:5; John 8:12)
- \* Stars were the GPS system of the ancient world

### WHO WERE THESE MAGI?

- \* They were neither kings nor three in number
- \* Coming from the East, they followed a strange star in the West

PRINCIPLE: God will guide the seeking heart. (Jeremiah 29:13-14)

- \* People of the East had some knowledge of Israel, their God and their Scriptures
  - Isaiah 9:1-2; Numbers 24:17,19

### WHAT WAS THIS STRANGE STAR?

- \* It was not a normal star
- \* It announced the birth of a great Jewish king
- \* It led them to Jerusalem
- ① Comet ?      ② Conjunction of planets ?      ③ Exploding star ?
- \* It led them south (from Jerusalem) to Bethlehem
- \* It led them to the very place where Jesus was
- ④ Temporary, supernatural light

### WHY DID THE MAGI FOLLOW THE STRANGE STAR?

- \* Make Peace with the newborn King
- \* Pay homage to the newborn King
- \* Offer costly gifts to the newborn King

I will seek God's guidance in prayer this week for

I'm becoming a follower of Jesus today.



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**Lesson Aim:** *To grow in our understanding of how God will guide us if we let Him.*

**Prayer:** Ask the Holy Spirit to lead your study time and/or discussion.

**Icebreaker:** Let's see how well we know the star constellations. Write down as many star constellations as you can think of. How many did you all get?

1. **READ Matthew 2:1-12.** Why do you think Herod and the people of Jerusalem were worried when the Magi said they were seeking the King of the Jews?
2. **READ Numbers 24:17-19.** The prophet Daniel and other Jewish exiles would have brought these Scriptures to the East with them and the Magi would have access to them. How do these verses point to Jesus Christ? How did the Magi show that they recognized Christ was God?
3. Herod and the Magi have dramatically different responses to the Christ-child (also see Matthew 2:13-18). What factors do you think contributed to these responses?
4. In the message this weekend, Pastor Scott taught about the difference between how the Bible describes "darkness" & "light" (see notes). How do the following verses speak to the power of God's light over darkness? How are these verses significant to you personally?

- **Psalm 18:28:**

- **John 8:12:**
- **2 Corinthians 4:6:**
- **1 John 1:5:**

5. Like the Magi, many of us have decided that Jesus is worthy of our adoration and worship. The Magi followed whatever Scriptures they had studied and a star. What were the external factors that led you to Jesus?
6. Think of an example from your own life when you knew God's direction and you took it. How did you know it was the right thing to do?
7. Think about an issue in your life right now. What do you think God would tell you about that issue if He were sitting next to you this very moment?
8. Another principle from this weekend's message was "God will guide the seeking heart" (as He did the Magi). What are some indicators that a person who is not yet connected with God through a relationship with Jesus has a seeking heart? What are some ways we can join God in helping to "shine His light" into such a person's life?
9. Think of a time when you had an opportunity to join in shining His light into a seeking person's life and tell the group about it.
10. What opportunities has God placed in your life for this right now?

**Close in prayer as the Holy Spirit leads you.**

This **LifeGroup** Study Guide is designed to help you apply Sunday's message. You can do this homework on your own; however we encourage you to check out our friendly, message-based **LifeGroups!** Get a copy of this Study Guide at [theBridgeFresno.com](http://theBridgeFresno.com) by clicking on the "Messages" link.