

**Dig Deeper @Home – “Awe and Wonder”**  
**Complement to lesson on 01/01/23 – “Worship”**

**ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered**

1. What is your favorite tradition related to Christmas?
2. Who are three “Magi” or wise people you look to for advice?

**MEMORIZE – Matthew 1:21**

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

**READ – Matthew 2:1-12**

**Questions to ponder/discuss:**

1. Re-scan the text and consider...
  - a. What did the Holy Spirit cause to “jump off the page” as you read?
  - b. What words are repeated? What might be the significance of these words being repeated?
  - c. What are the verses revealing about God? About people?  
In light of these, what needs to change in your life? What are you already doing well?
2. Why was it important that Jesus be born in Bethlehem?
3. Since the Magi were pagan astrologers, why would they leave everything in order to follow the star?
4. Note the responses of the Magi upon seeing Jesus. How is that similar to the response that we as believers make to Jesus? How is it different?
5. What do the star, the Magi, the gifts, the worship, the hostility and the prophecy teach us about the significance of Jesus?

## **EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY – Reflection on the “Gifts”**

As you think about the gifts the Magi brought to Jesus, what is the “gold, incense, and myrrh” in your life? Take some time to make a list of the “treasures” God has placed in your life. Talk with others in the group about what constitutes “treasures” to us in our context. How have you offered them to Jesus? How might God be able to use your treasure, your talents or your time to serve others in the new year? Choose one of those “treasures” and ask God to show you how you can offer this gift as an act of worship.

**SING** (Suggested songs to sing. Use these, or any favorites of the gathered group, to worship Jesus!)

Christmas Offering - Casting Crowns - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qmYrrT3IAu8>

The First Noel – Mennonite Hymnal #137

As with Gladness Men of Old – Mennonite Hymnal #142

Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xn84k3fcb2Q>

## **PRAY**

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

## **Sending prayer based on the series:**

Holy Spirit, we bless you: our Guide, our Comforter, our Lord. May we walk in step with you this week where we live, work, study and play.