



The Grove

BIBLE CHAPEL

• TAMPA •

LIFEGROUP RESOURCES: 12.08.24 Pulpit Curriculum

Celebrating the Birth of Christ

Main Passage: Matthew 2:1-12

1) The Traveling Wisemen: The Magi

[Nu. 24:17; Is. 9:2; Is. 60:3; Rev. 22:16]

- Greek for magi is *magos* (μάγος): They were a monotheistic, priestly and political tribe who were astrologers and astronomers from the medo-persian empire from the 7th century B.C. who learned (being trained by Daniel) of the future coming of King Jesus by following a special, glorious star.

A. The Bible is a historically accurate book. What other literary genres of the Bible are there? Why is it important to know these genres?

B. When the Magi found the home in Bethlehem in which Jesus, Mary, and Joseph were staying, they came bearing gifts: gold (symbolizing kingship), frankincense (symbolizing priestly offering), and myrrh (symbolizing burial and sacrifice), and they fell down and worshiped Him. In what ways, do you offer your gifts to King Jesus in worship and adoration?

2) The Tyrannical Madman: Herod the Great

- Herod's life was characterized by living constantly ruled by his flesh that was fearful, prideful, angry, and murderous.

C. Herod wanted power and control. What area of your life do you try to control the most and struggle to surrender to the Lord? _____

D. Are you, as a style of life, living according to the flesh or are you putting to death your flesh and living by the Spirit (Rom. 8:13)? How so?



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3) History's Main Character: Jesus the Messiah

- Jesus Christ is the main character of all of history and we are still talking about Him 2,000 years after His death; He deserves to be celebrated with exceeding, great joy!

E. Which attribute revealed about Jesus Christ are you eager to study?

(ex: King, Messiah, Shepherd) Who might help you develop a study of His great character? _____

F. In 1 Peter 2:25, Peter calls Jesus the chief shepherd and guardian of our souls because He cares so deeply for His sheep. In what ways have you experienced the tender shepherding care of Jesus?

4) Three Responses to Jesus Christ

- A) Anger
- B) Apathy
- C) Adoration

G. Religionists/Formalists have plenty of knowledge about God and the Bible, but nothing of heart or application of the scriptures. Does your knowledge translate to Biblical obedience and love for Christ and His priorities or is it all mere mental ascent or tradition? _____