

**RESPONDING TO THE KING: WORSHIP & WRATH**  
**PART 1**  
**Matthew 2:1-12**

Where God is at the center of things, worship inevitably follows.  
Where there is no spirit of worship, there God has been dethroned  
and displaced.

-Sinclair Ferguson

**I. Searching for the King**

## II. Submission to the King

### Getting to Know You

1. What is the best birthday gift you ever received? Why was it the best?

### Into the Bible

2. For a small town, Bethlehem becomes the center of a lot of activity surrounding the birth of the Christ child. What brought Mary and Joseph to this town? What brought the wise men there? There are about 40 references to Bethlehem in the Old Testament. Read three of them (Genesis 48:7, Ruth 4:11, 2 Samuel 23:13-17.) Talk about some reasons why Bethlehem was so important.

3. Reread the text for this week's message (Matthew 2:1-12.) Compare the different responses to the news that a king was born in Bethlehem. How does Herod respond (verses 3-4)? How do the wise men respond (verses 9-10)? How do the priests and scribes respond (verses 5-6)?

## Application

4. Travel being what it was in the 1<sup>st</sup> century Middle East, the journey of the wise men was probably long and sometimes uncomfortable. In a poem by A.E. Housman they describe the trip this way:

*The weather has been awful,*

*The countryside is dreary,...*

*At least we know for certain that we are three old sinners,*

*That this journey is much too long, that we want our dinners,*

*And miss our wives, our books, our dogs,...*

What do you suppose kept them going on their journey? What is our compelling reason for continuing in our journey of faith?

5. Go back to your answer to question 3. How should **we** respond to the birth of this king?

## For Families

6. The wise men brought gifts they saw as valuable to the baby king Jesus. Ask your children, if they could bring anything they chose, what gifts would they bring to the baby Jesus? Talk with them about the gifts we can bring to Jesus today.