

Bible Study Questions
December 6, 2020
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The Magi: Outsiders Who See God

Share some Christmas traditions that you grew up with and/or have in your family now? What's your favorite part of Christmas? What will you miss most this year?

Read:

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:2, 6).

Talk about how the ancient people of Israel must have felt. Waiting and waiting. Being occupied by Rome. Wanting, praying, hoping God would show up to rescue them—that the Messiah would finally come. Are there any ways, even small ways, that you can relate? Like you are waiting on God? Like God feels distant?

Read Matthew 2:1-12.

What stands out to you from this story? If the story is familiar, does anything new stand out this year? What questions/emotions does the story bring up for you?

The Magi were outsiders. When have you been an "outsider"? What was that like?

Why do these pagan outsiders see God when the insiders miss His coming? (Review who the insiders were—the powerful in Jerusalem—political, religious, social leaders).

Are there "insiders" you know that are missing the light of Christmas? If so, who and why?

What do you think of the Christmas Star? Was God speaking to them (showing them a sign)? What can we learn about the heart God from this story? What can we learn about our own efforts to share the love of God with others?

Are there people you know who have been hurt by the Church—like Vincent Van Gogh? How does that make you feel?

Is the light of Christmas shining in your life, or has it become a little dark (like Van Gogh's churches)? Perhaps there is a "room" in your life where the light of Christmas needs to shine this year. If so, can you share?

What does it mean to you to "Ponder Christmas"? How can you do that this month?