

FAMILY GATHERING

for January 2021

FAMILY SCRIPTURE READING

*As a family, read together the first Sunday reading for the New Year. This is known as the **Epiphany of the Lord**. Then answer the questions together as a family.*



When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.”

When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet:

*And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
since from you shall come a ruler,
who is to shepherd my people Israel.”*

Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star’s appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage.” After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

FAMILY SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS

1. What first stands out to you in the story?
2. God leads the Magi to the baby Jesus and His family with a star. How has God led to Jesus in the past?



3. Herod is a dangerous distraction to the Magi, planning to destroy Jesus. What kinds of distractions can you expect in 2021 as you try to get closer to God?
4. Some say the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh represent the kingly, divine, and human aspects of Jesus. What difference does it make to you that Jesus is all three: king, God, and human? Why do these descriptions matter?
5. The Magi return “another way.” In other words, this encounter with Jesus has left them forever changed. How do you want God to change you this year?



The Magi's encounter with
Jesus changed them forever.

Be forever changed.