



# TLC Study Guide for January 5

*Our Savior Lutheran Church and School*

**Theme:** Human beings have been given reason and knowledge to operate in God's creation. Yet sometimes we can rely on our reason too much, or place it above God's wisdom and revelation. The Wise Men who visited the child Jesus were searching for the King, and were known to be men of wisdom and knowledge. Yet ultimately, God revealed in Christ and God's word in the Scriptures superseded anything they ever could have come up with on their own.

## **Getting Started:**

1. What are you asking God for in this New Year, 2020?
2. Do you have any New Year's Resolutions or things you are looking forward to this year?

## **In the Word: Read Matthew 2:1-12**

3. Matthew and Luke are the only two Gospels with a birth narrative. John has a "origins narrative" that speaks of Jesus being the Word of God, present at creation, who is in fact God. Matthew & Luke both record Jesus being born in Bethlehem. What else do Luke and Matthew's accounts have in common, and how are the two accounts different? (cf. Luke 2:1-20 and Matthew 1:18-25)
4. Why was it significant (and prophetic) that Jesus be born in Bethlehem? What made that town so special? (see 1 Samuel, 16:1, 13)
5. How did the wise men know that a "King of the Jews" had been born?
6. King Herod is disturbed by the Magi's message, and yet he asks them to find the child and tell him, so that he too "may go and worship him." What do you make of King Herod's motives here?
7. Does this passage tell us how many wise men there were, or give us their names?

8. How did the wise men know not to go back and tell King Herod that they had found the child they were looking for? (verse 12)
  
9. Read Matthew 2:16. Put this together with what we read in 2:7. What does this tell us about how old Jesus might have been when the Magi arrived?

### **Putting it All Together**

10. Look at the actions of the Magi (verbs) in verse 11. They came, they saw, they bowed down, they worshiped, they presented gifts. How do these actions mirror what we do when we come and worship Jesus on Sundays?
  
11. What gifts do we present to Jesus as we worship Him and acknowledge Him as King?
  
12. The Magi were non-Jews, Gentiles, pagans. Why was their visit so significant? Read Matthew 28:19-20 and discuss the link between the Magi's visit and Jesus' final words to his disciples.

**Prayer:** Thank God for sending Jesus to be the Savior of all nations – including us. Tell God in your prayer how good He is, that we adore Him, honor Him, worship Him as our King. Ask for His presence and blessing in the New Year of our Lord 2020, and that we might live lives that give Him honor and glory as we look forward to Jesus second coming.

**Next Week:** Our series on Matthew continues with the Baptism of our Lord. We remember our own baptism into Christ, and that we have been claimed by God the Father as His dear child.