



Sermon Study Guide for January 2, 2022

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: Jesus isn't just a king to the people of Israel, but He is the King of all! We see on this Epiphany Sunday the magi coming from the east to worship Jesus, the infant king, to fulfill the words of Isaiah. Our King has come! Let us worship Him!

Getting Started: (sharing with each other)

1. On Epiphany we celebrate the wisemen, even though they weren't at the manger, we usually see them in nativity scenes. Do you have any favorite nativity scenes/sets, and what makes them special to you and your family?
2. The wisemen brought great gifts to worship the Christchild born King of the Jews. What gifts are you most thankful for?

In the Word: Matthew 2:1-12

3. The wisemen traveled from the East. Most likely from Babylon to Bethlehem. A journey of about 800 miles. What was the purpose of these magi traveling so far? Why were they so focused on getting to where the star was?
4. King Herod was truly disturbed by these prophecies. He was the king at the time, and now there was a new King. His plan wasn't truly to worship the Christchild, but to make sure that Jesus wouldn't take the throne. Jesus wasn't worried about an earthly throne. Why? What throne does Jesus have that is even more important than an earthly throne?
5. Read Isaiah 60:1-6. There is a beautiful use of some Hebrew here, using a literary term called 'intensification.' This is when in one line the verse gives an idea, and then in the next line, it intensifies the idea, and gives a deeper meaning. The nations will seek the light, but even more the kings will search for the light of the dawn. How does this intensification show the truth of Christ as the light of the world?

6. Read Ephesians 3:1-11. Specifically in verse 6, Paul explains that the Gentiles are heirs along with Israel, all members of one body. What comfort and hope does it give that we, even though we aren't part of the original chosen people of God, that we are still made His people through Christ?

Putting it all Together (what do we believe or do as disciples?)

7. While we know that we have a heavenly King who is in control, how do we still care and appreciate the earthly 'kings' in our world?
8. These magi gave Jesus wonderful gifts. What gifts can we give to God, and what ways can we care and use the gifts that we have for the glory of God?
9. In Ephesians, Paul reminds us that this gospel message isn't just for a select, but for all people. Jesus is the King to ALL nations. What does that mean for us, and how does that change how we live in this world?

Prayer: Thank God for sending His Son Jesus into the world to be our King. Thank God for those in positions of authority, and ask God to grant them guidance, wisdom, and courage to lead according to His plan. Thank God that you are part of His salvation plan, and are saved by grace through faith. Ask God to help you spread His Gospel message to all people.

Next Week: We see Jesus arriving at the banks of the Jordan. What exactly is He doing there? He is there to be baptized by John. As we look to Jesus' baptism, what a great time and reminder of our own baptisms!