



Sermon Questions

January 4th, 2026 | Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12 – Face to Face with The Magi

Pre-study: 3 things from the sermon. *Write down 3 ideas, illustrations, quotes, or points that made an impression in the sermon.*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Core Questions

1. How does Epiphany—the revelation of Christ to the nations—shape how we read the visit of the Magi at the close of the Advent season?
2. How can our modern idea of “wise men” obscure who the Magi really were and what they represent in Matthew’s Gospel?
3. If the Magi were some of the very first people to meet Jesus, what does that show us about who the message of the gospel is for?
4. Compare the response of the Magi in verses 10-11 with Herod’s in verses 3, 8, and 12. What do their responses reveal about the fundamentally different ways people respond to Jesus?
5. How do the titles “Shepherd” and “Christ” help us understand both the kind of King Jesus is and the mission He came to fulfill?

Inward Grace in Action

1. How does the costly, joyful worship of the Magi shape our understanding of what it means to follow Christ throughout our lives?

Outward Grace in Action

1. How does this passage both challenge our assumptions about who God draws to Himself and comfort us with the enduring power of the gospel in 2026?
2. In response to Christ’s revelation, what time, treasures, and talents might the Lord be inviting you, your family, or your community group to offer in worship this year?

For Families: Ideas of how to keep the conversation going at home, in the car, or around the dinner table:

1. **A - Ask about the message:** Ask your children who they think Jesus came for. Did He come only for certain people, or for people from everywhere?
2. **S – Share your thoughts:** Share how the visit of the wise men shows us that the good news of Jesus is not just for people who think they are good enough, but for people from all nations who know they need Jesus and come to Him in faith.
3. **K – Keep it going:** Since this is the final week of the Advent and Christmas season, consider making one last “gift” together. Perhaps a drawing, prayer, or act of kindness that you can offer to the true King, just as the wise men did. Use this time to pray together and thank Jesus for coming to save people from every nation.

WORSHIP THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

Here are some other ways you can meet with God throughout the week:

Reflect on these passages that trace the theme of the gospel going to the nations throughout the scriptures:

- Genesis 12:1-3
- Psalm 72
- Isaiah 60:1-6
- Matthew 28:18-20
- Ephesians 3:4-6
- Revelation 21:22-27

Pray: Psalm 72 is a meditation on the coming of Christ, the true Davidic King who brings good news to the nations. Take time to read through this psalm, stopping to worship and thank the Lord for all of who He is as our good and gracious King!

Serve: We are privileged to partner with many ministries that are actively sharing the gospel among the nations. Just a few of those are highlighted below. Take time this week to pray over their ministries and perhaps send one partner an email of encouragement as they begin the year.

- The Philemon Project
- Kenya Mercy Ministries
- City to City (Germany)

To find more info about how to partner with them in 2026 **go to:**

<https://mcleanpres.org/serve/global-missions-partners/>

Look Ahead: Next week we will begin a new sermon series on the book of Philippians. The scripture passages will be Acts 16:11-15 and Philippians 1:1-11 where we will see how the Apostle Paul calls us to grow in our joy in community with one another.