

# SECOND SUNDAY after CHRISTMAS

**Directions:** Read the scripture selected from the Revised Common Lectionary, perhaps before bed, in the morning, or during a family meal. Move through the discussion questions in one sitting or answer one a day to help reflect on the scripture throughout the week. End your time in prayer. This could be a simple ritual to incorporate into the week.

## MATTHEW 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel!'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever prepared for a long journey? What was that like?
2. Have you ever felt overwhelmed by joy? What did that feel like?
3. Where do you find joy in your life?
4. What do you do to bring joy to other people?
5. What things in your life remind you God is with you?

## JOY BREAK

**Materials:** Paper (multiple pieces), pens, pencils, and/or crayons

What brings you joy in your life? Sometimes writing or drawing things helps us better remember them.

Using the paper and pens/pencil/crayons, write and/or draw the following things:

- **Five** things that made you smile this week
- **Four** fun things you did this week
- **Three** people who were kind to you this week
- **Two** times you felt loved this week
- **One** wish you have for the next week

Feel free to both write and draw if you would like. Do whatever feels right for you. When you finish, take some time to pray for everything you wrote/drew and thank God for the joy you have in your life.

## PRAYER

Ever present God, you have always been and will always be with us. Help us take time to remember the things in our lives that bring us joy. Thank you for everything that makes us smile and gives up hope.

**Amen.**

