

Marinating in God's Word: Matthew 2:1-12

The Wise Men's story has become familiar to us, but imagine the surprise when these guests showed up! Of course they were surprised too as they found the newborn king to be so different than they expected.

For further reflection on your own or in a small group, consider these questions:

- Matthew's gospel alone tells us the Magi's story. What can you know about them from this passage alone? What other flourishes and details have art and tradition added? What is the value of the bare story? And what is the value of art and tradition?
- By what means did God guide the Magi to Jesus? Talk about an ability to plan ahead! By what means did God guide you to Jesus? How might he have planned ahead when he did?
- The Magi were thrilled, but Herod - not so much! Why was Herod frightened (v. 3)? Who feels threatened by Jesus now? Herod tried to spy out Jesus' precise location, and when he couldn't, he just killed all the children in the area (v. 16-18). How would you account for Herod's ruthless acts? And how do you account for actions in our day which ruthlessly take lives, even of children?
- In what ways did the Magi know what they were doing, and in what ways did they do more than they knew? How about you - in what parts of your life do you think you are doing more to point to Jesus than you can now see?

Next week we will focus on Matthew 2:13-23.