

Advent 2025
Joy to the World
Sunday, December 14, 2025

Matthew 2: 1-2, 9-11 NLT

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, ²“Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.”

⁹ After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! ¹¹ They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Three Things to Increase the Joy of the Lord in Your Life:

1. Set Your Heart

2. Live to Give

3. Grow in the Wisdom of God

Conclusion: The joy we have from the Lord magnifies within us the more we know and understand who Christ is. *First and always, may we seek Him and His Kingdom!* May we let His joy touch every area of our

lives and overflow to those around us. This is the will of God.

LIFE GROUP LESSON
Joy to the World
Week of December 14 – December 20, 2025

Ice Breaker: How has the joy of the Lord helped you through trying circumstances?

Read Matthew 2: 1-2, 9-11.

1. Who came to speak with King Herod? Where did they come from?
2. What question did they ask the king? (v.2)
3. What does this tell you about what they knew about Jesus?
4. Are earthly men born kings? What is the process to become king?
5. What does this tell you about Jesus' sovereignty?
6. How might this truth encourage you in your faith?
7. What was their motivation for their long journey? (v.2)
8. What do we learn about these wise men, regarding their faith and practices? How did they know it was Jesus' star?
9. What was their response when they saw the star had stopped? (v.10)
10. What did they do when they saw the child? (v. 11)
11. Why was joy their response? What is your response as you encounter Christ?
12. What did they give to the child? (v. 11) Why these gifts? What do they symbolize? What does this tell you about who Jesus is?
13. As they traveled across the desert, what were they focused on?
14. What can we model from the wise men's faith and actions to seek and behold the joy of the Lord?
15. Read Psalm 118: 24 and James 1: 2-4. Not every day will bring happiness in our lives. What do these verses teach us about choosing joy daily? What happens to us when we choose joy?
16. The wise men gave their best to the baby Jesus. They even traveled quite some distance to give of themselves. Was it worth it to them? (vs. 10-11) Is it worth it to you to give your best to God? Is it worth it to sacrifice time, money, and resources to honor your King?
17. Read John 15: 10-12. What causes our joy to overflow? Why?
18. Read Romans 14:17. What is the kingdom of God about? How do we do this? Who is the one who helps us do this?

Point to ponder: We must decide to walk in His joy daily. We do that with the help of the Holy Spirit. Set your heart on Jesus and joy will automatically flow within you.