

**December 30<sup>th</sup>**

Mary and Joseph are finally home.  
They are watching their Son grow.

And in another part of the county, there are new visitors preparing to meet the Child.

**Matthew 2:1-2** – Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of \_\_\_\_\_ the king, behold, \_\_\_\_\_ [magi] from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> saying, “Where is He who has been born \_\_\_\_\_ of the Jews? For we have seen His \_\_\_\_\_ in the East and have come to \_\_\_\_\_ Him.”

And the king is not happy about this at all (3). Who is this new king? Has he come to take Herod’s crown? Has he come to battle and defeat Herod? This would never do. Herod had the power, and he was not going to give it up willingly or easily. So he devises a plan.

**Matthew 2:7-8** – <sup>7</sup> Then Herod, when he had \_\_\_\_\_ called the wise men, determined from them what time the \_\_\_\_\_ appeared. <sup>8</sup> And he sent them to \_\_\_\_\_ and said, “Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back \_\_\_\_\_ to me, that I may come and \_\_\_\_\_ Him also.”

I, Herod, want to worship this new king. Find out where He is and let me know.

So the magi continue with their original plan to find the Child. And they do.

**Matthew 2:9-11** – <sup>9</sup> When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the \_\_\_\_\_ which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and \_\_\_\_\_ over where the young Child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great \_\_\_\_\_. <sup>11</sup> And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and \_\_\_\_\_ Him. And when they had opened their \_\_\_\_\_, they presented \_\_\_\_\_ to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

They find the Child.

They worship the growing Savior.

They honor the parents raising Him by giving gifts for His upbringing.

And then they are ready to leave. They know there is no good in Herod. Being in the presence of the Child has stirred up wisdom within them.

**Matthew 2:12** – Then, being divinely \_\_\_\_\_ in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own \_\_\_\_\_ another way.

*Going Deeper:*

1. *When have you tried to keep a secret from God? What happened?*

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2. *What does it take to be “wise” with God? (Consider Psalm 1; Proverbs 1:5, 3:5-7; Matthew 13:14-15, 20:16)*

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3. *When is a time someone tried to trick or use you for his/her purposes? What happened?*

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4. *How do the wise men react to Jesus? Why?*

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5. *How do you think Mary responded to the wise men showing up, knowing who her Child is, and leaving gifts? (Do you think they told her of Herod’s fears?)*

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