

*Pray that as you begin 2011 you see the new things that God is doing in your life. Thank God for His presence with you, pray that you will walk in His joy and follow His direction for you.*

# LIGHTS

WEEK 4

## Light for the Wise

December 23, 24 & 26, 2010 • René Schlaepfer

1.

After Jesus' birth, **wise men** from the east arrived in Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the one who was born to be king of the Jews? We observed His **star** rising and have come to worship Him."  
*Matthew 2:1–2 GW*

**King Herod** ...called together **all the chief priests and scribes** and tried to find out from them where the Messiah was supposed to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem in Judea. The prophet wrote about this..." *Matthew 2:3–5 GW*

[Jesus:] "Seek and you will find..." *Matthew 7:7 NIV*

### Resources for Seekers

*More Than A Carpenter* Josh McDowell

*The Reason for God* Tim Keller

*The Case for Christ* Lee Strobel

*All available today in the lobby*

2.

And when they saw the star, they **rejoiced exceedingly with great joy**. *Matthew 2:10 NASB*

"I bring you the **most joyful news ever** announced, and it is for everyone! Your Savior ...has been born tonight!" *Luke 2:10–11 LB*

[Jesus:] "I came to give you life — **life in all its fullness**." *John 10:10 LB*

*Our new series on living with joy, "One Month to Live," starts January 1st!  
Related workbooks are available today in the lobby.*

3.

"When they entered the house, they saw the child with His mother Mary, and **they bowed down and worshiped Him**." *Matthew 2:11 GW*

### Candlelighting

#### FOR SEEKERS

*A symbol of commitment to seek the truth about Christ in the coming year.*

#### FOR NEW BELIEVERS

*A symbol that I now receive the Light of Christ into my heart.*

#### FOR COMMITTED BELIEVERS

*A symbol that, having received the Light, I will be a light to others.*

## Resources used in preparing this message

*The Christ of Christmas* James Montgomery Boice (The seeker's prayer)

*The Star of Bethlehem* Mark Kidger (Astronomer's view of the star)

*God With Us* John MacArthur (Details about the magi)

*Searching for a Savior sermon* Rick Warren (Ideas for the outline)

## Daily Meditations

### Monday

Please read Psalm 37:3–5, Matthew 2:1–12 & 7:7. What did the Magi desire? What did Herod desire?

Now reflect on your desires. Write down a few of your desires. How can you delight yourself in the Lord today and align your desires with His?

*Thank God today that He cares about your desires. Talk to Him about the desires you have. Pray that your desires will be aligned with His and that you will trust He has the best in store for you.*

### Tuesday

Please read Matthew 2:10, Luke 2:10–11 & John 10:10. What brought the Magi joy?

What is the difference between joy and happiness?

What brought you joy this Christmas season?

*Thank God today for the joy He gives. Pray that as you continue through the Christmas holiday and into the new year that you will experience God's joy and will be a conduit of His joy to others.*

### Wednesday

Please read Psalm 25:9, Isaiah 58:11 & Matthew 2:10. The Magi received direction from God in a unique way. How have you received God's direction in your life?

What do these verses teach you about how God guides and directs you?

In what area of your life are you seeking God's guidance? How does the story of the Magi encourage you as you seek God's direction?

*Thank God today for the guidance that He has given you over this past year. Ask Him to give you a sensitivity to His direction as you enter 2011. As an act of worship, tell God that you are willing to follow Him wherever He leads you.*

### Thursday

Please read Matthew 2:11, Colossians 1:15–16 & 2 Corinthians 9:15. What do these verses teach you about the gift that God gave us in Jesus Christ?

In which way is it difficult for you to respond to God?

What gift are you tempted to hold back from God? Why?

*Talk to God today about the things you struggle to trust Him with. Ask God to give you the desire to offer your whole being—doubts, struggles, and all—to Him. Thank God for the amazing gift He has given you in His Son Jesus Christ.*

### Friday

Please read Matthew 7:7–8 and Acts 17:24–28. There were a lot of things that the Magi didn't know about Jesus, but that didn't keep them from seeking and eventually finding Him. What does the story of the Magi teach you about God's grace?

What does this story teach about God's desire for human beings?

How does this fact encourage you in your own spiritual journey?

*Thank God that He wants you to find Him! Thank God for giving guidance to all who seek Him. Pray for one person you know who is still seeking God. As an act of worship, ask God to use you in this person's life this year to help point the way to Jesus Christ.*



[Jesus:] "I came to give you life—  
life in all its fullness." *John 10:10 LB*