



**Control Blinds People: Herod (Matthew 2:1-2, 12-23)**

December 17, 2023

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**Is your need to control blinding you to the things of God?**

But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, **2 Corinthians 4:3 NKJV**

whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. **2 Corinthians 4:4 NKJV**

**Wise Question  
(Matthew 2:1-2)**

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, **Matthew 2:1 NKJV**

saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." **Matthew 2:2 NKJV**

### **God's Warnings (Matthew 2:12-15)**

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

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." **Matthew 2:13 NKJV**

When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, **Matthew 2:14 NKJV**

and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son." **Matthew 2:15 NKJV**

### **Herod's Atrocity (Matthew 2:16-18)**

Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. **Matthew 2:16 NKJV**

Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: **Matthew 2:17 NKJV**

"A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping [for] her children, Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more." **Matthew 2:18 NKJV**

### **Jesus' Return (Matthew 2:19-23)**

Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, **Matthew 2:19 NKJV**

saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." **Matthew 2:20 NKJV**

Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. **Matthew 2:21 NKJV**

But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. **Matthew 2:22 NKJV**

And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene." **Matthew 2:23 NKJV**

For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." **Genesis 3:5 NKJV**

**This Week's New Testament + Reading Plan:**

1. *Matthew 19*
2. *Matthew 20*
3. *Matthew 21*
4. *Matthew 22*
5. *Matthew 23*
6. *Deuteronomy 6*
7. *Prayer & Reflection*

December 17

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NURSERY

## JESUS IS GOD'S GIFT

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS



In this series, we learn that Jesus was born on Christmas, and that God gave Jesus to us. We discover all about the birth of Jesus, and that Jesus is God's Son sent to Earth for us.

**Memory Verse:** "Jesus is God's Gift." Isaiah 9:6A (Adapted for toddlers)

**Heart of the Lesson:** Jesus is God's Gift of Love

**Parent Connect:** As a family, gather around and read the story of Jesus' birth in Matthew 1-2, or Luke 1-2. Have your kid point out every way this story shows us that Jesus is God's gift!

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## CHRISTMAS

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS



In this series, we will learn of the great gift God gave to the world, the birth of His Son Jesus! We will learn how an angel of the Lord visited Mary and Joseph, how they traveled afar to Bethlehem where Jesus was born in a manger. Praise the Newborn King!

**Memory Verse:** "And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21

**Heart of the Lesson:** Jesus Deserves Our Worship | Luke 1,2:1-20; Matt 1:18-2

**Parent Connect:** Today we learned how shepherds were visited by an angel who told them the good news. Baby Jesus, our Savior is born. The shepherds then visited to worship the Newborn King! Talk to your kid about different ways to worship; singing, giving, praying, etc! How can you worship Jesus this Christmas season?

ELEMENTARY

## WHO MISSED IT?

CRACKING THE CASE OF CHRISTMAS



3-week Christmas series means 3 opportunities for kids to be transformed into detective agents and discover "Who Missed It: Cracking the Case of Christmas." We will be examining the case files of Christmas found in Luke chapter 2 and Matthew chapters 1 & 2. Each week a suspect will be revealed as the person who missed out on celebrating Christ's birth because they were too wrapped up in unbelief, busyness, or selfishness.

**Memory Verse:** "Without question, this is the great mystery of our faith: Christ was revealed in a human body..." 1 Timothy 3:16a

**Heart of the Lesson:** Focusing on ourselves causes us to miss Jesus – Matthew 2

**Parent Connect:** When we are selfish and only think of ourselves we can miss Jesus. Talk about different things this Christmas season that can take our thoughts off of ourselves and live what Jesus taught.



How do we keep our eyes on Jesus during the holiday season? In our series People Who Missed Jesus, we will explore the stories of Zechariah, the Innkeeper, and King Herod to learn how doubt, busyness, and wanting control can sometimes make us miss the real meaning of Christmas - Jesus.

**Memory Verse:** "Without question, this is the great mystery of our faith: Christ was revealed in a human body..." 1 Timothy 3:16a

**Heart of the Lesson:** Selfishness causes us to miss Jesus – Matthew 2

**Parent Connect:** What areas of your life do you have a hard time trusting Jesus? Spend some time journaling and asking God to help you let go of selfishness and trust in Him.



Christmas is a big part of our year, but did you know it's easy to miss what Christmas is actually about? Christmas is about Jesus coming to Earth to live a perfect life, take away our sin, and invite us to be a part of God's family. This series, we're taking time to look at stories of people missing who Jesus was so we can learn more about how we can help ourselves and others "see" Jesus this Christmas!

**Memory Verse:** The god of this world has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They can't see the light of the good news that makes Christ's glory clear. (2 Corinthians 4:4 NIRV)

**Heart of the Lesson:** Is control causing you to miss Christmas (Matthew 2:12-23)

**Parents/Caregivers:**

- Why did King Herod miss who Jesus was?
- Is it easy or hard for you to give up control?
- What is one way you can give control to and trust Jesus this week?
- Who does God want you to share the Good News with?