



Religion Blinds People: The Priests (Matthew 2:1-11)
December 10, 2023

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Is religion causing you to miss Christmas?

The wise seek Jesus and see Him

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**

The religious know what to say, but don't know Jesus

When Herod the king heard [this], he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. **Matthew 2:3 NKJV**

And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. **Matthew 2:4 NKJV**

So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: **Matthew 2:5 NKJV**

'But you, Bethlehem, [in] the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.' " **Matthew 2:6 NKJV**

Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. **Matthew 2:7 NKJV**

And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found [Him], bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also." **Matthew 2:8 NKJV**

The wise see Jesus and worship Him

When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. **Matthew 2:9 NKJV**

When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. **Matthew 2:10 NKJV**

And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. **Matthew 2:11 NKJ**

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the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, **Ephesians 1:18**

This Week's [New Testament + Reading Plan:](#)

1. *Matthew 14*
2. *Matthew 15*
3. *Matthew 16*
4. *Matthew 17*
5. *Matthew 18*
6. *Isaiah 29*
7. *Prayer & Reflection*

December 10

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NURSERY

JESUS IS GOD'S GIFT

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS



In this series, we 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 gods 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 for Everyone

Parent Connect: Today we learned that Jesus is God’s gift for Everyone. As you sit around the dinner table this week, or are driving somewhere as a family, brainstorm with your kids all the people that they know who Jesus is for. Stop and pray for all the people listed, and make them a Christ centered Christmas card!

GKJR

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 the Savior is Born | Luke 2

Parent Connect: Today we learned how Mary and Joseph traveled a far distance to Bethlehem and had baby Jesus in a stable! Talk to your kids about holiday travel plans. Look up a map of the destinations that you will be headed. While en route, pretend you are all headed to Bethlehem like Mary and Joseph!

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’s Christ’s birth because they were too wrapped up in unbelief, busy-ness, 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: Busy-ness and distractions causes us to miss Jesus - Matthew 1:18-25

Parent Connect: Ask your kids what are things that distract them from following Jesus. Then ask what ways they can prioritize the walk with Jesus and implement 1 or 2 of them for the week.



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: Unbelief causes us to miss Jesus - John 1:9-10, Luke 1:1-45, Mark 9:24

Parent Connect: Memorize Mark 9:24 and pray for God to help your unbelief in times of doubt.



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 Religion causing you to miss Christmas? (Matthew 2:1-11)

Parents/Caregivers:

- Who missed Jesus in the story today?
- Were the priests focused on having the right information or knowing Jesus?
- Is it easier for you to focus on spending time with Jesus or doing what everyone else thinks is right?
- Who can you encourage to spend time with Jesus this week?