2022 Christmas-V

**THE WORSHIP OF THE MAGI**

(Matthew 2:1-12)

**Open it:**

1. Why do we give gifts at Christmas? If you could give any gift to anyone, what would you give, to whom, and why?

**Explore it:**

1. Read verses 1-2. Where and during whose reign was Jesus born? Who were Magi? Why did they come to Jerusalem? What external and internal factors prompted the Magi to travel? What did the Magi believe about the newborn baby? How would you define worship?
2. Read verses 3-4. How did King Herod and all of Jerusalem react to the Magi’s visit? Why? What information did the people’s chief priests and teachers give to King Herod?
3. Read verses 5-6. Why is it significant that Christ was born in Bethlehem? What does the phrase “a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel” reveal about the newborn king?
4. Read verses 7-10. What were King Herod’s instructions to the Magi? How were the Magi led to the newborn king? What was the Magi’s reaction when they realized they had found the infant king?
5. Read verses 11-12. Where was Jesus when the Magi found him? How did the Magi react upon seeing the newborn king? What gifts did the Magi bring? How is their giving gifts to the infant king instead of getting something from him an essential part of true worship?

**Apply it:**

1. What kind of Christmas gift would make you truly happy? What do you learn from the Magi about genuine happiness?