

THE TALE OF TWO KINGS

Matthew Chapter 2

NOTES:

NATIONS COME TO WORSHIP THE KING

- **Chapter 2** takes place months, up to two years, after Jesus was born.
- Herod's official title was "King of the Jews." He was a tyrannical man with a penchant for building, a lavish lifestyle, and was very paranoid, so much so that he had multiple family members executed.
- The wise men from the East were probably pagan Babylonian Magi, which were astrologer/magician/soothsayers who most likely were familiar with various religious prophetic writings, including the Old Testament writings about the future, such as **Numbers 24.17**, promising a star to point to the coming Messiah.

CONTINUING THE FAMILY TREE

It is no mistake that the very first people to be drawn to Christ were pagan, non-believing, new age magicians. Jesus came *through* sinful humanity *for* sinful humanity.

Luke 5.29-32 // 2 Corinthians 5.17-22

**The Mission of Jesus is to Save the Lost,
Equip the Saved, and Send the Equipped.**

THE GOSPEL MADE KNOWN THROUGH THE CHURCH

The church, by its nature and design, is a missional force on the earth, God's design for His lost sheep to be found. He equips each and every one of His saints to be a part of His mission.

We are Gathered So We Can be Scattered.

1 Corinthians 12.4-11 // Ephesians 3.7-12



Recommended Resources

The Gospel Transformation Bible

Published by Crossway, this bible is not *so much* a study bible, but a bible with commentary to help you see the bigger picture of Christ and His Gospel in and through all the Scriptures.

ARE YOU NEW HERE?

WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION CHURCH!

We're so glad you joined us today! We'd LOVE for you to **fill out the green Connection Card** on your seat to let us know you were here today. You can drop it in the offering at the end of service or take it to one of our **teammates in a Green Shirt** at the **Connection Booth** outside - we'd love to give you some welcome information.

Feel free to **grab some food or coffee** out in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you'll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

If you've ever taken your child to one of our Kids on Mission classes, or enjoyed a cup of coffee after service, chances are there was a **faithful servant** behind each of those examples. By giving your time and talent on Sundays, you're **an essential part** of helping others meet Jesus, and serving is one of the **most fun & rewarding ways we experience community** with our church family! Fill out a connection card or visit the **Connection Booth** to learn about the serving opportunities available today.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

The best way to **get connected** in the church is by joining one of our **Community Groups!** You'll **forge friendships**, be encouraged, and take the sermon deeper into your heart every week. **Sign up for a Group** on a **Connection Card** or visit the **Connection Booth**. You won't regret it!

GIVING

Gospel-centered generosity should never be fueled by obligation or guilt; it should be motivated by a heart of thankfulness because of the sacrificial love God has already shown us. If you call Life Mission your Home, you can place your gift in the offering baskets at the end of service, give online at lifemissionchurch.com/blog/give or mail a check to our PO Box. **Thank you so much for your love & support!**

KIDS ON MISSION

Our Kids are incredibly important to us! The Kids on Mission ministry has classrooms for **newborns - 6th grade** & is passionately overseen by **Audra Napolitano**. Please Visit lifemissionchurch.com/blog/kids to read more about the vision and plan we have for our kids, including Pastor Jobey's heart and his walkthrough of our curriculum.

JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Our Junior High students (**7th & 8th graders**) worship with the adults, and then head to their class for the rest of service. We challenge them to **dig deeper into what they learned on Sunday** throughout the week.

Our **High School students** stay in the adult service because we believe that it is critical for them to not "graduate the faith" when they graduate school. For questions on our student ministries, contact **Casey Barnes** at hbarnes5@yahoo.com or **John Hawthorne** at hawthorne-john@hotmail.com

SAVE.

Jesus was sent to save. We have been saved to be sent. We are sent into our community to share the Good News that Christ came to save us, and we hope to see many who find new life.

EQUIP.

We want to equip those very people in the Word so that they can continue to grow as disciples of Christ. From our preschool to our adults, our passion is to see everyone equipped in the Gospel to live a life of freedom and joy.

SEND.

Lastly, we then want to see those equipped people sent into their community and world. From schools and playgrounds, to families and work places, we want to see people who are spiritual leaders in their life, showing people the truth of Christ's Good News.

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COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Read **Matthew 2:1-23**. What sticks out to you in this passage or what was most impactful from the message on Sunday? _____

Matthew is not only the first book in the New Testament, but it also connects Old Testament prophecy about the coming King to Jesus' arrival. Read **Numbers 24:16-17, Isaiah 60:1-6** and then read **Matthew 2:2, 9-11**. What sign does God use to announce the arrival of His Son? Explain how God the Father displays His sovereignty and how this "banner" shows the supremacy of Jesus? _____

God moves the star in the sky by directing nature to proclaim Jesus' birth! Discuss how this simple act causes you to worship God. _____

Read **Matthew 2:3-5**. Other than Herod, who is scheming and opposing Jesus from the starting gate? How does this serve as a cautionary tale? _____

What was the astronomers or wise men's response to Jesus birth? What was the religious leaders response? Who was "for" Jesus and who "opposed" Jesus? _____

Are you more like the religious leaders or the astronomers? Is your heart full of wonder and excitement leading you to worship like the astronomers or are you more prone to act legalistic like the religious leaders? _____

It's interesting that most likely both the astronomers and the religious leaders had a good knowledge of the Word, however one was proud and one was humble. As you learn about the Gospel through Matthew in the coming weeks, months how do you avoid the pitfall of pride? _____

Instead of bowing to Jesus and receiving Him as King, Herod opposes and does not want to submit to Jesus. Herod is upset that his "kingdom" is being interrupted. Can you relate to how Herod is handling the situation? _____

Read **Philippians 2:5-11**, then pray as a group confessing any sin and ending group on your knees, praising and exalting Jesus as King.