

Group Reflection Questions

Who is your favorite person in the Christmas story (and you can't say Jesus since he doesn't say anything)?

How is your understanding of the Magi different now from when you heard the story as a child?

How can we use the Christmas season to open people to hearing the gospel (e-mail me your ideas!)?

The Magi took great risks. How is telling the story of Jesus risky?

Who is God leading you to tell his story?

The Evangelical Stream: The Magi **Matthew 2:1-12**

Have you ever thought about the story of the Magi? It's a strange story isn't it? Out of the four gospel writers only Matthew picks up this story. We are not told where these men come from except they "saw his star in the east." And they bring costly gifts—gold (always costly), frankincense (and incense used at burial), and myrrh (like frankincense but more costly). One gift for a king and two looking forward to Jesus' death. (What would you think if you were Mary and some strange men brought your one-year-old some burial incense?) This is literally a story that comes from out of nowhere!

Yet, this is the story. The Christmas story is not just some story about a Rabbi/carpenter being born in some remote village. The Christmas story is a story of life and death. It is a story of humility and a king. It is a local story that impacts every corner of the world. It is a story that men and women will travel thousands of miles to tell. We tell the story of the newborn King of the world whose reign will never end.