



Who told the Persian astrologers to come westward? Why did a star lead these Gentiles to the house where Jesus lay? What does all of this have to do with Old Testament prophecy? In this lesson, we learn that wise men seek Jesus. They still do.

These questions are intended to deepen your experience of the message. Use them for your personal or family study time, or with an open Bible as you share the good news with your neighbor.

Group Ice-Breaker:

How do you picture the "wise men" who come to see Jesus?

OUTSIDERS. Read **Matthew 1**. Do you notice some unusual names in Jesus' genealogy? Why does Matthew want us to know that God has used "outsiders" in bringing about the birth of Jesus?

MAGI. Read **Gen 41:8; Ex 7:11, 22; 8:7, 18; 9:11; Isaiah 3:3**. What do we learn about "magicians" who serve kings and pharaohs? List some of the duties of their roles. Read **Dan 1:20; 2:2, 10, 27; 4:7; 5:7**. What are some other names or roles associated with being a "magician"?

ASTROLOGERS. Read **Dan 4:9; 5:11-12**. Daniel is described as a "magi" and "astrologer." How does the description of Daniel here explain the wide role of a "Magi"? Is it significant that Daniel is in Persia—in the "East"? Read **Dan 12:5-13**. Daniel is told about when the Messiah will appear, though the answer is "sealed." However, "those who are wise" will understand. What does this suggest to you?

PROPHECY. Read **Numbers 24:17; Psalm 72:10**. What do these Old Testament prophecies have to do with the Magi? Read **Isaiah 60:1-14 & Matthew 2:1-12**. List all the ways these two passages relate to one another. What do you notice about how the Magi visit fulfills the vision of Isaiah 60?

LEGENDS. What legends and stories do you know that surround the wise men story? Can you trace any biblical or theological reasons why some of those traditions might have developed?

THE NEW JERUSALEM. Magi are gentile outsiders, who come to worship. They come from the East, the side of the garden where angels guard the entrance to God. And Isaiah 60 is a prophecy about the light of God's glory arising on and shining on Jerusalem. How does Matthew portray Jesus as the new temple, the new Jerusalem, the new place where God dwells and where we meet God?