

THE JOURNEY OF ADVENT Matthew 2:1-12

During the Sundays of Advent, and on Christmas morning, we are going to engage with some different themes of the Christmas story and see how they relate to us today. Advent is really all about two things: preparing to give thanks for the birth of Christ and looking forward with hope to Christ's return.

Jesus is called the light of the world. The inhabitants of Israel lived in spiritual darkness. The birth of Jesus in many ways was like a light post in a dark world, it marked the place where spiritual journeys began.

Advent journeys begin with a search for the truth. The wise men were searching (diligently) for something. That is a great place to start, because all of us are searching for the truth. Ultimately, our life is all about that search.

Jeremiah 29:11 *"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."*

Jeremiah 29:13 *"You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart."*

Amos 5:6 *"Seek the Lord and live..."*

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF THIS ADVENT SEASON:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Matthew 2:1-12 (ESV)

The Visit of the Wise Men

2 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, ² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶ "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.