

TRUE STORY



INTRODUCTION

PART 4: King Herod, the Magi, Jesus.

During the Christmas season, we sing songs, exchange gifts and help the less fortunate—all because of a story about a baby born over 2,000 years ago. But is this *just a story* along the lines of the Easter bunny and tooth fairy, or did the events surrounding the birth of Jesus unfold as recorded in the gospel accounts?

This series explores some of the supporting characters of the Christmas story, who will help to show that this is, indeed, a true story..

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who do you think most people think Jesus was (and is)? Who do you say he is? On what basis do you believe what you do?
2. How do you tend to view Jesus: as a Savior, Friend, King or something else? Explain your answer.
3. Read Matthew 2:1-18. Using your smart phone or tablet, who were the Magi? Approximately how far had they traveled to see the baby Jesus? What do you think compelled them to come so far to see Jesus?
4. When the Magi arrived, they asked the question, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews?” How is that question different from, “Where is he who has been born to be king of the Jews?” Read Philippians 2:9-11. What do we learn from these verses about Jesus’ identity?
5. Why do you think Herod was so threatened by Jesus? In what ways are we like Herod?
6. What do we learn about worship from the Magi? How can we imitate their example?
7. Why does it make sense to acknowledge Jesus as King over our lives?
8. How might you apply this lesson to your life?

APPLICATION

Herod was historically known as the “King of the Jews” and “Herod the Great” during his reign. A quick read of the Christmas story might lead some to believe that he wanted to worship the Christ child, but he had other intentions. History shows that Herod was an incredibly cruel and selfish ruler.

The Magi observed and followed a star to come from afar to find the newborn King of the Jews. The star led them to Jesus, where they presented him with gifts and worshipped him.

Who sits upon the throne of your life? We have a tendency to want to call the shots and be king (or queen) over our own life, and we might even find ourselves threatened by the idea of submitting our will to another. One day, Jesus will rule on a physical throne, but in the meantime, he desires to rule on the throne of our lives. Despite our fears, there is no better way to live than to follow Jesus as our king.

KEY VERSES

Matthew 2:1-18

2 Corinthians 5:15

Phillipians 2:9-11

Ephesians 2:8-9

John 3:16