

NATIVITY

WEEK 2: NATIVITY SEEN

DAY 1: READ MATTHEW 2:1-12

The wise men saw the news of Jesus' birth and sought Him out to worship Him. Are you actively paying attention to the work of God in and around you? Are you willing to actively pursue where He leads? Ask the Holy Spirit to give you eyes, ears and a heart to sense His nearness; be ready to obey when He speaks. Let your ultimate goal be to glorify God in every step of the journey.

DAY 2: READ MATTHEW 2:3-8, 13-23

To Herod, the arrival of this new 'king of the Jews' was a direct challenge to his kingly authority. Scripture says Herod was troubled by the news. What does Herod do in response? Where does Herod's story (and authority) end? What are some areas in our hearts who responded to the news of Jesus with the same kind of resistance and desire to prevent any further interruption to our lives, authority, purpose or plans? Pray about it. Let it go and surrender everything to Jesus, our King.

DAY 3: READ JOHN 1:9-18

Just like the wise men, who saw Jesus and worshiped Him, we have seen God's glory and experienced His grace and truth through Jesus. Take time to worship Him and thank Him for His presence, His son and the work He's done/doing in our lives. Take time to thank Him directly. Throughout the day, find opportunities to worship Him; sing some worship songs in the ride to/from work, reflect on something you witnessed, or glorify God by telling someone else about Him.



DAY 4: READ JOHN 1:29-42

John the Baptist declares and announces Jesus as the Lamb of God to the world. John's announcement of Jesus introduces Andrew and Simon (Peter) to the Messiah. What would happen if you declared who Jesus is to the people surrounding you? What if you told them about the great things He's done in your life or how much greater He is than anyone or anything else? Consider boldly declaring who Jesus is to someone this week.

DAY 5: READ ROMANS 11

What similarities do we see here between Herod's rejection of King Jesus and Israel's rejection of God's plan of salvation. Is God's plan for salvation prevented because Israel killed the prophets and (spoiler alert) sought the death of Jesus? What does that say about God's power and our sinfulness or rejection to God's work? Why should that encourage you?

DAY 6: READ ROMANS 12

Paul tells us to present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God as a spiritual act of worship. How can we, like the wise men, present our bodies as living sacrifices. What needs to look differently in our behavior, thoughts, words or areas we invest our time?

DAY 7: READ PSALM 150

Rejoice! Let everything praise the Lord. Find some way to thank God and celebrate Jesus in your own special way. Maybe it's writing poetry, singing a song, hiking in the woods and reflecting on His works, building something, caring for someone, being generous to a widow, orphan or someone in need. Whatever it is and however God wired you, intentionally seek out a way to use your gifts to celebrate His living presence because of Jesus.