

## Scripture

*Matthew 2:7-12 (RSV)*

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; 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." When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; 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. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

## Reflection

We are all seeking something.

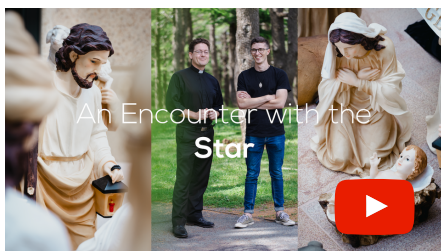
All: the hopeful, doubtful, committed, questioning.

The wise men were seeking - in the depths of their hearts - to find God. They search and follow the way of the star, which leads them to worship.

This is the Christian journey. We search for Jesus and encounter Him in our circumstances and follow Him. We are invited to allow everything in our circumstances to be transformed into a sign that points to God. This is how God sanctifies us. This leads us to worship.

Do your circumstances lead you to worship? Are you taking the narrow path, following the star? Or are you allowing yourself to be seduced by the path of the world?

Amen.



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## Contemplate + Share

Pause a few minutes with God; pray, journal.

- Q.** Did something stand out to you? Why?
- Q.** What is God saying to you right now?
- Q.** What part of your identity did you uncover?
- Q.** Do you feel compelled to make an action?

## Prayer

Jesus, so often I lose sight of you. My pride leads me to deny you and reach for temporary happiness. Lord, direct my eyes away from myself and draw them up to follow you. Do all this so that I may worship you more freely.

Jesus, you are our guide:

*Lord have mercy*

Jesus, you sanctify us:

*Christ have mercy*

Jesus, all worship and praise is yours:

*Lord have mercy*