

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO CHRISTMAS CAROLS

WEEK 5 | WE THREE KINGS

(Matthew 2.1-12)

REFLECTION & STUDY

(1) Read the words of We Three Kings:

We three kings of Orient are bearing gifts we traverse afar; field and fountain, moor and mountain following yonder star.

**O Star of wonder, star of night star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding guide us to thy Perfect Light.**

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain gold I bring to crown Him again. King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign.

Frankincense to offer have I incense owns a Deity nigh. Prayer and praising, all men raising worship Him, God most high.

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume breathes of life of gathering gloom. Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Glorious now behold Him arise King and God and Sacrifice. Alleluia, Alleluia earth to heav'n replies.

- (2) What stands out to you?
- (3) Read Matthew 2.1-12 and do some fact checking against the song. What is factual in the song and what is historical fiction/creative license?
- (4) What is the express purpose of the magi (see v. 2)? And how do they fulfill this purpose (see v.v 10-11)?
- (5) Verse 10 said that the magi "rejoiced exceedingly with great joy" or were "overjoyed." How would you describe your experience of worship? Rejoice exceedingly with great joy? What holds you back from joy in your worship?
- (6) What titles or descriptions of God are present in Matthew quotation of Micah 5 (see v. 6)? What does this tell us about who God is?
- (7) On Sunday Brian challenged us to follow Christ in 2013 and to make a plan to read Scripture in 2013.
 - How would you like to grow in your relationship with Christ/how to plan on following him in 2013?
 - Do you have a Scripture reading plan for this year? Have you used one in the past that's been helpful for you?
- (8) Write down your spiritual goals/hopes/resolutions somewhere you can revisit them throughout the year (i.e. on a bookmark/slip of paper for your Bible).