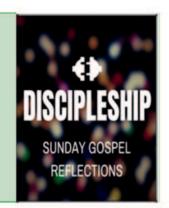
In preparation for January 4, 2026, The Epiphany of the Lord Theme - Following the True Light

"They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary, his mother. They prostrated themselves and did in homage. They opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh." Verses 10, 11 Matthew 2:1-5, 7-11



- 1. Now that we are into the Christmas season, it's time to celebrate and pay homage to the birth of our Savior and King. The Magi brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to pay homage. What gifts can you bring to the king to help share his light with others? Who in your life might need this Good News right now?
- 2. The Magi were said to be wise teachers from another land that interpreted dreams as messages from the heavenly realm. Even though they likely worshipped other Gods, they still honored the child as an awaited king and protected his life by heeding a warning in a dream. How do you as a believer honor and protect the life of Jesus? What in our life could you change to realign your faith?

Obstacles for living out the Gospel: Forgetting the gift of Jesus...

- Teens 1. Why do you think King Herod was afraid when he heard about Jesus' birth? Fear made Herod act selfishly and cruelly. When have you seen fear lead people to make bad choices?
- 2. The Magi searched for Jesus with determination. What are some ways we can seek Jesus in our own lives?
- 3. The Magi were outsiders who recognized Jesus as King. What does this say about who Jesus came for?
- 4. Sometimes following Jesus takes courage like the Magi traveling far from home. When have you needed courage to live your faith?

Obstacles to living out the Gospel: Not having the courage to follow Jesus when difficult choices are presented in your life.

- children 1. What gifts would you bring to give to Jesus? Do you offer the gift of yourself at the offertory at Sunday Mass? Why or why not?
- 2. Right after Jesus was born, the shepherds came to adore him, in today's Gospel it is the Magi. What does this tell you about who Jesus came for? Do I treat everyone with the same love I want to receive from Jesus? What helps me or prevents me from believing that Jesus came for both the rich and the poor and all of us in between?

Obstacles to living out the Gospel: Not realizing that at Mass we are not only receiving Jesus but are being called to go out and share his light and love to others. Thinking Jesus only came for a select few and not for everyone.

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