Taking Risks and Reaping Rewards

1. Why do you think “the wise men” came to Jerusalem instead of Bethlehem to worship Jesus?

Matthew 2:1 (KJV)
Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

2. About how many wise men do you think came to Jerusalem to worship Jesus?

Matthew 2:1 (NIV)
After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem

3. What led the Magi to the Jerusalem area to seek the newborn king?

Matthew 2:2 (KJV)
Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.
4. Why do you think Herod and all the people in Jerusalem were troubled by the news of the Magi?
   a. Herod was troubled because ____________________________
       ________________________________________________

   b. The people in Jerusalem were troubled because __________________
       ________________________________________________

   Matthew 2:3 (KJV)
   When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

5. What was the main topic of discussion in the meeting with Herod, the chief priest, and the scribes?
   ________________________________________________

   Matthew 2:4 (KJV)
   And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

6. How did the chief priest and scribes know where the Christ child would be born?
   ________________________________________________

   Matthew 2:5-6 (KJV)
   5 And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, 6 And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.
7. What was the purpose of Herod’s private meeting with the Magi?

Matthew 2:7 (KJV)
Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

8. Do you think Herod wanted to worship the Christ child?

No or Yes

Matthew 2:8 (KJV)
And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

9. How did the Magi find the house in Bethlehem where the Christ child was born?

Matthew 2:9 (KJV)
When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

10. List the three kinds of gifts given to the Christ child by the Magi.

a. ______________________

Matthew 2: 11 (KJV)
And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.
11. Why do you think the Magi did not return to Jerusalem and tell Herod of the place where Jesus was born?

Matthew 2:12 (KJV)
And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

12. What did Joseph do after the Magi left?

Matthew 2:13-14 (KJV)
13 And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. 14 When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:

13. What did Herod do when he learned that the Magi did not come back and give him the location of the Christ child?

Matthew 2:16 (KJV)
Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men.

14. How old do you think the Christ child was when Herod sent the soldiers to kill the babies in Bethlehem and the surrounding areas?

15. Assignment for Sunday, January 7, 2024
   ► Read Hebrews Chapter 11.
Matthew 2:1-12 (KJV)

1 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

3 When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

5 And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

6 And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

7 Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

9 When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

12 And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.