



DEVOTIONAL

Sermon Series: Follow the Star

Theme: Discovering God's presence and guidance through the light of Christ

Week 1: The Journey Begins

Title: Seeking the Light

Scripture: Matthew 2:1–6

Day 1 – Sunday, December 28, 2025

A Holy Restlessness

Scripture: Matthew 2:1–2

Reflection:

The Magi appear suddenly in Matthew's Gospel, arriving with no backstory and little explanation. They are not kings. They are not Jewish. They do not belong to the religious inner circle. They are seekers—outsiders who noticed something unusual in the sky and dared to believe it mattered. What moved them was not certainty, but longing. Something in them recognized that the world was shifting, that history itself was bending toward something new.

Faith often begins this way. Not with answers, but with restlessness. A sense that what we have is not enough. A quiet dissatisfaction with the way things are. We may not name it as spiritual at first, but it pulls at us nonetheless. The Magi teach us that holy restlessness is not a flaw in faith—it is often its beginning.

In the days after Christmas, many people feel disoriented. The brightness fades, routines return, and the world's weariness presses back in. Yet Epiphany insists that God is still revealing light. The Magi did not stop seeking once the celebration ended. Their journey was just beginning.

To follow the star is to honor that inner stirring without rushing to control it. It is to say, "I don't know everything yet—but I know I must keep moving." God often meets us not when we have clarity, but when we have courage to seek.

Prayer:

God of mystery and movement, stir in me a holy restlessness. Keep me from settling too quickly for what is comfortable or familiar. Give me courage to follow the longing You have placed in my heart, trusting that You will meet me along the way. Amen.

Action Step:

Take time today to journal honestly about what feels unfinished, unresolved, or restless in your life. Instead of fixing it, offer it to God as the beginning of a journey.

Day 2 – Monday, December 29, 2025**Outsiders Who See Clearly**

Scripture: Matthew 2:1

Reflection:

Matthew tells us something subtle but profound: those who first recognize Christ's significance are not insiders. The Magi are scholars from another land, shaped by different traditions and ways of understanding the world. Yet they see what many religious leaders miss.

This challenges the assumption that spiritual insight belongs only to those with the right credentials or background. God is not confined to our categories. Revelation does not respect the boundaries we create. God's light breaks through wherever hearts are open enough to notice.

For the church today, this is both humbling and liberating. It reminds us that God is already at work beyond our walls. Faithful witness begins not with control, but with curiosity. Who is seeing God clearly today that we might be overlooking? What voices have we dismissed because they come from outside our familiar frameworks?

The Magi remind us that wisdom often comes from the margins. If we want to follow the star, we must be willing to listen to unexpected guides.

Prayer:

God who speaks beyond boundaries, forgive me for assuming I know where You will show up. Open my ears to voices I might overlook. Teach me to recognize Your light wherever it shines. Amen.

Action Step:

Today, intentionally listen to a perspective different from your own. Reflect on what truth or insight God may be offering through that voice.

Day 3 – Tuesday, December 30, 2025**Signs in Unexpected Places**

Scripture: Matthew 2:2

Reflection:

God spoke to the Magi through a star—through creation itself. This reminds us that God's self-disclosure is not limited to sacred texts or religious settings. Scripture affirms again and again that the heavens declare God's glory, that creation itself bears witness to the Creator.

How often do we miss God's guidance because we expect it to arrive in a specific form? Epiphany stretches our imagination. It invites us to notice beauty, coincidence, disruption, and wonder as possible signposts of God's movement.

The light of Christ still shines in unexpected places: through art that moves us, conversations that linger, moments of awe that interrupt our routines. The question is not whether God is speaking—but whether we are paying attention.

Prayer:

God who speaks through stars and silence, sharpen my awareness. Teach me to notice Your presence in the ordinary and unexpected. Let nothing distract me from Your gentle guidance. Amen.

Action Step:

Practice attentiveness today. When something arrests your attention, pause and ask: "God, what might You be showing me here?"

Day 4 – Wednesday, December 31, 2025

Leaving What Is Familiar

Scripture: Matthew 2:1–2

Reflection:

The Magi did not merely admire the star. They followed it. That meant leaving behind the safety of home, familiarity, and control. Faith is never static. It moves us.

Following God's light often requires letting go—of certainty, comfort, or old assumptions. The end of the calendar year naturally invites reflection. As one year closes and another begins, the question arises: what must be released so that the journey can continue?

God rarely gives us the entire map. Instead, God offers enough light for the next step. Faith grows not by seeing the whole road, but by trusting the One who walks ahead of us.

Prayer:

God of the journey, help me release what no longer serves Your purposes in my life. Give me courage to step into the unknown, trusting Your light to guide me. Amen.

Action Step:

As the year ends, write down one habit, fear, or assumption you sense God inviting you to release. Pray over it as an act of trust.

Day 5 – Thursday, January 1, 2026**When Power Misses the Point**

Scripture: Matthew 2:3

Reflection:

Herod's response to the star is fear. He has power, position, and access to religious knowledge—yet he cannot see what the Magi see. Power, when rooted in fear, often blinds rather than clarifies.

This contrast is striking. The Magi seek truth; Herod seeks control. One follows light; the other tries to extinguish it. Epiphany exposes how easily power can distort perception.

The invitation for us is deeply personal: where might fear or self-protection be clouding our vision? Following the star means loosening our grip on control and trusting God's way of power, which looks like humility and love.

Prayer:

God of truth, reveal where fear distorts my vision. Free me from the need to protect my own power or comfort. Teach me to trust Your way of light. Amen.

Action Step:

Reflect honestly today: where might fear be shaping your decisions more than faith?

Day 6 – Friday, January 2, 2026**Scripture and Curiosity Together**

Scripture: Matthew 2:5–6

Reflection:

The Magi need Scripture to interpret the star. Revelation is both discovered and

received. Curiosity and tradition meet. Faith deepens when exploration is grounded in wisdom.

God does not ask us to abandon questions or suppress wonder. Nor does God ask us to discard Scripture. Instead, God invites us into dialogue—where ancient truth and present seeking inform one another.

This is a model for mature faith: open, grounded, humble. A faith that listens deeply and learns continuously.

Prayer:

God of wisdom, help me hold curiosity and faith together. Teach me to engage Scripture with both reverence and openness. Amen.

Action Step:

Read Matthew 2 slowly today. Notice what questions rise, and offer them to God without rushing to resolve them.

Day 7 – Saturday, January 3, 2026

What Star Are You Following?

Scripture: Matthew 2:2

Reflection:

Not every light leads to life. Some stars guide us toward achievement, approval, or security—but leave us spiritually empty. The Magi followed a light that led them away from power and toward vulnerability.

Epiphany invites discernment. Which lights shape your decisions? Which voices guide your hopes? Following Christ means choosing a light that leads us toward humility, justice, and love—even when it costs us something.

Prayer:

Guiding God, help me discern which lights draw me closer to You and which lead me astray. Lead me always by the light of Christ. Amen.

Action Step:

Choose a **Star Word** for Epiphany. Write it somewhere visible and pray with it daily.

Week 2: The Star Leads to Revelation

Title: Encountering the Holy

Scripture: Matthew 2:7–12

Big Idea: Following the star leads not just to discovery, but to transformation. Epiphany is not only about seeing the light—it is about being changed by it.

Day 1 – Sunday, January 4, 2026 (Epiphany Sunday)

Not in a Palace

Scripture: Matthew 2:11

Reflection:

The Magi finally arrive. After a long journey, after questions and detours, after navigating fear and power, they reach the place the star has been guiding them toward. And what they find is startling: not a palace, not a throne room, not guards or ceremony—but a house, a mother, and a child.

This moment reveals the heart of Epiphany. God's glory does not appear where we expect it. Divine power does not mirror human power. The Magi came looking for a king, and they found one—but a king whose authority rests in vulnerability rather than domination.

This challenges our assumptions about holiness. We often associate God's presence with grandeur, certainty, or success. But here, holiness is quiet. Ordinary. Fragile. The Magi kneel not because the scene impresses them, but because something deeper rings true. God is present—not in splendor, but in simplicity.

Epiphany asks us to reconsider where we look for God. Are we searching in places of influence and control, or are we willing to recognize holiness in humility, tenderness, and small beginnings? The Christ-child reveals that God meets us not above our humanity, but within it.

Prayer:

Humble Christ, open my eyes to recognize You where I least expect You. Teach me to honor holiness that arrives quietly and love that comes without spectacle. Amen.

Action Step:

Today, intentionally notice an ordinary moment—a conversation, a shared meal, a quiet task—and ask: *Could God be present here?*

Day 2 – Monday, January 5, 2026

Gifts Laid Down

Scripture: Matthew 2:11

Reflection:

The Magi respond to their encounter with Christ by opening their treasures. Gold, frankincense, and myrrh—gifts of honor, worship, and sacrifice. These offerings are deeply symbolic, but they are also deeply personal. The Magi do not merely observe the Christ-child; they respond.

Epiphany is never passive. To truly encounter Christ is to be changed, and change always asks something of us. The Magi give what they have carried across great distance. Their gifts represent time, effort, devotion, and intention.

We may not bring ancient treasures, but we, too, are invited to respond. What do we lay down when we encounter Christ? Our schedules? Our priorities? Our assumptions? Our comfort? Revelation invites response—not as obligation, but as gratitude.

True worship is not only sung or spoken. It is offered. It takes shape in what we give and how we live.

Prayer:

Generous God, show me what You are inviting me to offer—my time, my gifts, my compassion, my courage. Help me give freely in response to Your grace. Amen.

Action Step:

Name one gift—spiritual, relational, or practical—you sense God calling you to offer this year. Write it down and pray over it.

Day 3 – Tuesday, January 6, 2026

Changed Direction

Scripture: Matthew 2:12

Reflection:

After encountering Christ, the Magi do not return the way they came. Warned in a dream, they choose a different road home. This detail matters. It tells us that revelation is not merely enlightening—it is redirecting.

Encountering Christ changes our direction. Sometimes subtly, sometimes dramatically. The old paths no longer fit. The assumptions that once guided us lose their authority. Faith is not simply about adding Jesus to our existing lives; it is about allowing our lives to be reoriented.

This “other road” is often quieter, less obvious, and sometimes more costly. But it is also freer. When we follow Christ’s light, we are no longer bound to fear, power, or habit. We are guided by love.

Epiphany reminds us that transformation often happens after the moment of awe—when we step back into daily life and choose to live differently.

Prayer:

God who redirects, help me notice where You are inviting me onto a new path. Give me courage to change direction when faithfulness requires it. Amen.

Action Step:

Ask yourself: *What “old road” might God be calling me to leave behind?* Sit with the question prayerfully.

Day 4 – Wednesday, January 7, 2026

Revelation for All

Scripture: Matthew 2:1–12

Reflection:

Epiphany proclaims a radical truth: God’s light is not reserved for a select few. The first worshipers at Christ’s feet are Gentiles—outsiders to Israel’s covenant story. God reveals Himself beyond boundaries, traditions, and expectations.

This is good news for a weary and divided world. God’s grace does not depend on proximity to power or purity of pedigree. The light of Christ shines across cultures, nations, and identities.

The Magi remind us that faith is not about exclusion but invitation. If God reveals Himself to them, then God’s love is wider than we imagine. Epiphany stretches the church outward—calling us to celebrate diversity, welcome difference, and resist the urge to gatekeep God’s grace.

Prayer:

God of all peoples, expand my vision of Your kingdom. Break down the barriers I build and teach me to rejoice in the wide reach of Your love. Amen.

Action Step:

Pray today for a community or people group different from your own. Ask God to help you see them as beloved.

Day 5 – Thursday, January 8, 2026**When Power Feels Threatened**

Scripture: Matthew 2:7–8

Reflection:

Herod's response to the Magi is calculated and fearful. He pretends curiosity, but his heart is bent toward self-preservation. God's revelation threatens his power.

This contrast exposes an uncomfortable truth: when Christ's light shines, it challenges unjust systems and fragile authority. The Gospel is not neutral. It unsettles power built on fear, control, and exclusion.

Epiphany asks us to examine our own loyalties. Are there systems we benefit from that Christ's light would challenge? Are there truths we resist because they threaten our comfort?

Following the star may require us to stand in tension—to choose truth over security, justice over convenience.

Prayer:

God of justice, give me courage to follow Your light even when it disrupts comfort or challenges power. Align my heart with Your kingdom, not my own security. Amen.

Action Step:

Learn about one justice issue this week. Reflect on how faith might call you to awareness, advocacy, or action.

Day 6 – Friday, January 9, 2026**Worship as Resistance**

Scripture: Matthew 2:11

Reflection:

When the Magi kneel before Jesus, they are making a political and spiritual

statement: this child—not Herod—is worthy of allegiance. Their worship is an act of resistance.

True worship always shapes how we live. It reorders our loves. It declares that our ultimate loyalty belongs to Christ, not to power, wealth, or fear.

In a world that constantly tells us what to value, worship resists distortion. It reminds us who we are and whose we are. To worship Christ is to commit ourselves to His way of humility, justice, and love.

Prayer:

Christ our King, let my worship be more than words. Shape my life, my choices, and my commitments through devotion to You. Amen.

Action Step:

Let worship take tangible form today—serve someone, give generously, or stand with those who are marginalized.

Day 7 – Saturday, January 10, 2026

Carrying the Light Forward

Scripture: Matthew 5:14

Reflection:

The star fades from the Gospel story, but its work is done. Those who followed it now carry the light themselves. This is the final movement of Epiphany: we become what we have seen.

Christ's light is not meant to be admired from a distance. It is meant to be embodied. We carry it into workplaces, relationships, communities, and systems. We bear it through kindness, courage, truth, and hope.

The journey does not end at the manger. It continues wherever God's people live as reflections of Christ's presence.

Prayer:

Light of the world, shine through me. Help me carry Your light into places of darkness, weariness, and need. Make my life a faithful reflection of Your love. Amen.

Action Step:

Each morning this week, pray: *"God, how can I carry Your light today?"* Then watch for opportunities to respond.

