

**Sermon-Net ADVENT 2020 - A White Christmas**  
**Study 1: LET THERE BE LIGHT - Week of November 29**

OPENING: What are some of the more vivid memories you have of Christmas? Of Christmas lights? What would you think Christmas would be like if we didn't have Christmas lights as decorations?

**READ John 1:1-9, paying close attention to the way John describes Jesus**

- WHAT WORDS does John use for Jesus?
- WHAT ATTRIBUTES OR ACTIONS does John ascribe to Jesus?

**READ Isaiah 60, verses 1 and 2, and then verses 19 and 20.**

- To whom was the prophecy given? What were the circumstances of the prophecy?
- How does this prophecy point to the purpose of Jesus the Messiah?

*NOTE: This prophecy would have been shared (most likely) with the Babylonians and Persians during the time of Judah's exile. Therefore it is conceivable to think that the wise men (magi) living in the eastern lands would have been familiar with the promise of a Judean Messiah whose birth would be signified by some sort of astronomical sign.*

**So now, READ Matthew 2:1-6.**

- Why do you think the magi first went to Jerusalem after sighting the star in the east?
- What is surprising about the response they first received from the leadership in Jerusalem?
- Where were the people able to find the answer to the magi's question regarding the location of the Messiah?
- What application can be made regarding Scripture's direction for our lives from this event?

**READ Matthew 2:7-8, 13-20**

- What was the true reason Herod wanted to find the Christ child?
- How are some elements in the early life of Jesus similar to elements in the early life of Moses?
- How did God protect Jesus and his family?

**Now go back and READ MATTHEW 2:9-12**

The feast that would be connected with the arrival of the magi is known as "Epiphany." What does that word mean? How can the magi's discovery of the Messiah be described as an "epiphany?"

**READ LUKE 1:76-79**

Can you find in Zechariah's prophetic word to his son, John, where the Greek word "epiphanos" would be (hint: one definition of epiphany is "to shed light on something")?

What was John's prophesied job in relationship with the Messiah? How is that similar to our job as disciples of Jesus? How GOOD are we at doing that job?

**Back to the magi:** What was their response when finding the child? What did their gifts signify about Jesus?

How does **Jeremiah 29:13** relate to this story about the magi finding the light of the world?