



Summer Blockbuster Reading Challenge

3 months—4 Gospels—Go!

THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 2022



Take your Pulse

Look outside your window. What is giving you joy as you look outside today?

Turn off the tv. What is something close to you, not national news, that is bringing you down?

Today's Reading

Matthew Chapter 2

Matthew and Luke are the only Gospels that tell the story of Jesus' birth. Both stories are very different. Here we have wise men from a far away land, here we have the political intrigue of Herod's jealousy, here we have the prophets all coming true—he would be born in Bethlehem, he would come from Egypt, a lament would be heard, and he would be called a Nazorean. That is a lot of prophecies to all of a sudden come true all at once. Perhaps, Matthew was orchestrating his story in such a way to help his reader understand how God had been working through all of these tragic events, to give comfort even in a time when the reader is dealing with tragic events.



Start the Thinking

Understanding how God is at work in the midst of difficult times is often an exercise of hindsight. Reflect back to a time you were dealing with something difficult. How do you now see God at work in that time, that at the time you experienced it, you would not have seen it that way?



Conversing with God

God who is hidden, often we seek you and do not find how active you are in our lives. Yet, when we look back we find you carrying us in ways we never fully understood in the moment. Thank you for shepherding us safely, open our eyes to see you at work in our lives today, and let us be the light that helps someone else find you during their difficult time. In Jesus' holy name, we pray. Amen



Be blessed

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine brightly upon you that you experience all God's grace. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

In the name of the Father, and the + Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen