



### *Epiphany of the Lord*

Wise men from the East have followed a star from its rising to find the new king of the Jews. They encounter a jealous Herod, the current king, who tries to have them reveal the child's whereabouts so he can get rid of him. When they find Jesus, they give him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

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When the wise men find what they are looking for, they share their most precious treasures. What are *you* looking for? What is *your* most precious treasure?

You may not want to admit it, but if you are like most people, you have probably spent a great deal of your life hoping to find the love you deserve: a love that accepts and affirms you completely. Some people follow star after star, looking for that unconditional love, only to be disappointed over and over again.

Why does this happen? We are human, which is to say imperfect. At some point, all parents end up hurting and disappointing their children. Those hurts and disappointments condition the way we love. We become frustrated and lose our tempers. We push too much or say too much. We are jealous or too sensitive. And we find ourselves hurting and disappointing the ones we love most. Those who love us do the same.

If we are lucky, we find a spouse who will grow with us through those hurts and disappointments, and the love that blessed us when we were married grows and matures. And if we

***Feast of the Epiphany***

***Matthew 2:1-12***

***date: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_***

***“Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh”  
(v. 11).***

are really lucky, our children forgive us for the hurts and disappointments we inflicted on them, and they love us for a lifetime. But we poor, flawed humans can never love unconditionally in this lifetime.

The only way to find that love is to follow the same star the wise men followed: the star that leads to Jesus. Only God can love us unconditionally, and Jesus is the Way to God's love. Open yourself to God's love so that you can share that love with all its acceptance and affirmation with your most precious treasure: your children.

**Family Response:** It is important to affirm your children. Tell each family member what you like most about him or her. Ask other family members to do the same.

**Personal Response:** Where are you in your relationship with God? Are you open to discovering who God is and how much you are loved? If so, how can you go about it?

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What do you want to remember from last week?

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What are you looking forward next week? What are your concerns?

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