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"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy
that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born
this day in the city of David a Savior, who is
Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for
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swaddling cloths and lying in a



After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

Matthew 2:1–12 (NIV)





When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

Matthew 2:1–12 (NIV)





“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: “ ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’”

Matthew 2:1–12 (NIV)





Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

Matthew 2:1–12 (NIV)





After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

Matthew 2:1–12 (NIV)





On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Matthew 2:1–12 (NIV)





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Matthew 2:11 (NIV)





MY FAITH JOURNEY BEGINS WITH SEEKING GOD



“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

Matthew 7:7 (NIV)





IF I WANT TO FIND GOD, I NEED TO READ GOD'S WORD

-
- *My faith journey begins with seeking God*



“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

Micah 5:2 (NIV)





Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk,
so that by it **you may grow up** in your salvation,
now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

1 Peter 2:2–3 (NIV)





A dog party!
A big dog party!
Big dogs, little dogs,
red dogs, blue dogs,
yellow dogs, green dogs,
black dogs, and white dogs



This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.

The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:13–14 (NIV)





Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

Romans 10:17 (NIV)





For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.

Ephesians 2:8–9 (NIV)





for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Romans 10:13 (NIV)





For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12 (NIV)





Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

James 1:22 (NIV)





In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by
action, is dead.

James 2:17 (NIV)



JESUS IS WORTH THE JOURNEY TO FIND HIM

- *My faith journey begins with seeking God*
- *If I want to find God, I need to read God's Word*





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Matthew 2:1–12 (NIV)





David said to him, “Let me have the site of your threshing floor so I can build an altar to the Lord, that the plague on the people may be stopped. Sell it to me at the full price.”

Araunah said to David, “Take it! Let my lord the king do whatever pleases him. Look, I will give the oxen for the burnt offerings, the threshing sledges for the wood, and the wheat for the grain offering. I will give all this.”

1 Chronicles 21:22–24 (NIV)





But King David replied to Araunah, “No, I insist on paying the full price. I will not take for the Lord what is yours, or sacrifice a burnt offering that costs me nothing.”

1 Chronicles 21:22–24 (NIV)



When David says, “I will not offer anything that costs me nothing”, he is showing me that meaningful worship typically involves personal sacrifice.





I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever. Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever. Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts. They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty— and I will meditate on your wonderful works.

Psalm 145 (NIV)





They tell of the power of your awesome works— and I will proclaim your great deeds. They celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness. The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.

Psalm 145 (NIV)





The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.
All your works praise you, Lord; your faithful people extol you.
They tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might,
so that all people may know of your mighty acts and the
glorious splendor of your kingdom.

Psalm 145 (NIV)





Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does. The Lord upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down. The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.

Psalm 145 (NIV)





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Psalm 145 (NIV)





Worship is not about what
we get, but rather about
what we give.





After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

Revelation 7:9–12 (NIV)





And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.” All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: “Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!”

Revelation 7:9–12 (NIV)



- My faith journey begins with seeking God
- If I want to find God, I need to read God's Word
- Jesus is worth the journey to find Him



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