

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Daily Reading Questions

Note: The questions were written from the wording in the NIV 1984. If you are using a different Bible translation, they may have to be adapted.

Journal Focus – What happened after Jesus' Birth?

Reading 1: Matt. 2:1-8 – Wise Men: Seeking the Savior

Where did the Magi come from? (1) (Although we can't be certain, the Magi were probably astrologers who studied the stars and were advisors to the King of Persia.) Why did they come to Jerusalem? (2) How did Herod determine where the baby was? (3-5) What did Herod tell the Magi to do? (8) What can we learn from the Magi? How does the reading relate to Isaiah 55:6-7?

Reading 2: Matt. 2:9-12 – The Star: Leading to the Savior

How did the Magi find Jesus? (9-10) Where was Jesus? (11) What were the gifts they gave Jesus? (11) Why didn't they go back to Herod? (12) How do you know the Magi thought Jesus was a king? How do you think the Magi felt finding a king in an ordinary house? What do you think is the significance of the gifts they brought?

(Myrrh was an aromatic gum extracted from the leaves of a special plant. It was used in beauty treatments (Ester 2:12). It was mixed with wine and offered to Jesus on the cross as a pain reliever (Mark 15:23). It was also applied to Jesus' body after his death. (John 19:39-40) Incense is an aromatic compound burned on special occasions. People all over the world have used it in religious rituals. The Israelites burned it in the temple. (Jeremiah 6:19-20) The burning of incense in scripture is often a symbol of prayer. (Psalm 141:2) Gold is a precious metal and has been used throughout history as a standard of exchange. The tabernacle and temple in Jerusalem were decorated with gold in honor of God.

Reading 3: Matt. 2:13-15 – Egypt: Calling out of captivity

Why did Joseph take Jesus and Mary to Egypt? (13) How long did they stay? (15) What do you see as the significance of Jesus being taken to Egypt and then brought back? (Egypt was a place of refuge for the Israelites when God led Jacob and his family there to escape a famine. It later became a place of captivity as the people were made slaves. God had to send Moses to lead them out of slavery. Jesus came out of Egypt and leads us out of our captivity and slavery to our own sin.)

Reading 4: Matt. 2:16-18 – Herod: Demonstrating man's evil

What did Herod do when he realized the Magi had outwitted him? (16) What had Jeremiah the prophet said about this? (18) (Rachel was Jacob's favorite wife. She was the mother of Joseph and Benjamin. From Joseph came the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh, which were the two most prominent and powerful tribes of the northern kingdom of Israel. The use of the name Rachel would personify the nation of Israel.) Can you think of other rulers throughout history who were cruel like Herod? What drives men like Herod? What happened to him when he faced God in judgment? How can you relate what Herod was like as a person to the reason Jesus came to earth?

Reading 5: Matt. 2:19-23, 1 Cor. 1:26-31 – Nazareth: Being despised and rejected

Why did Joseph take Jesus to Nazareth? What things does God choose? Why?

Why do you think God selected a despised town to be the place where his son was raised? (At the time of Jesus to call someone a Nazarene (meaning from Nazareth) was the same as saying they were "despised." Read John 1:45-46. The Old Testament never says that the Savior would be called "a Nazarene" but it does say that the Savior would be despised and rejected. See Isaiah 53:3.)

Reading 6: Isaiah 9:1-7 – The Child: Given to us

Who would God honor? (1) What would the people walking in darkness see? (2) What would be shattered? (4) Who would be born? (6) What would be the names by which the child is called? (6) What would there be no end to? (7) How did Jesus fulfill this prophecy from Isaiah?



UPPER ELEMENTARY-ADULT

LEVEL 4

HOME JOURNAL

### The Christ of Christmas—4



CREATION AND THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN HISTORY

### THIS WEEK'S BIG QUESTION

Why do people reject Jesus?

### MEMORY VERSE

#### John 3:19-20

*This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.*

## Parent Notes

- **Daily Reading:** Depending on the age and ability of your child, or parent preference, he/she may do the work in this journal independently or complete it with the parent. After reading the day's Bible passage, the student should identify an important truth that relates to that reading and answer the question why he/she needs to know that truth. It would be beneficial if the parent and student also read through and answer the questions about the day's reading from the **Daily Reading Questions** at the back of the booklet. Personal ideas and additional questions from the parent can also be included.
- **Lesson Verse:** The lesson verse which answers the week's big question should be practiced daily. One way to do this is to black out words in the verse each day and say the verse inserting the correct word. By the end of the week the whole verse would be blacked out and recited by memory.
- **Concluding Lesson:** To develop deeper understanding and a comprehensive biblical worldview, the parent should talk through with the student the **Thinking It Through** questions at the back of the booklet and then have the student write out the answers.
- **Completion:** If the student brings this booklet back to the teacher on Sunday, with each day's work completed and the lesson verse memorized, the student will receive acknowledgement of a job well done.
- **Way to go, parents!** Your faithfulness in teaching your children the deed and statutes of the Lord isn't always easy, but it honors God and will have an eternal impact. Keep up the good work! Remember Galatians 6:9, *Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*

## Concluding Lesson—Thinking It Through

Discuss these questions with a parent then write out your answers below.

- What is an important truth you learned from the Bible readings this week?
- How should that truth be lived out in your life?
- What would be the result of your living out that truth?
- What is a lie or deception people believe in terms of that truth?
- Why does that lie or deception appeal to people?
- What would be the result of believing and following that lie or deception?

**Digging Deeper:** What happened after Jesus' Birth?

**Reading 5:** Matt. 2:19-23, 1 Cor. 1:26-31

What is an important truth from the passage?

Why do you need to know that truth?

**Reading 6:** Isaiah 9:1-7

What is an important truth from the passage?

Why do you need to know that truth?

## Christmas 4

# Why do people reject Jesus?

People reject Jesus because they love darkness instead of light.

**John 3:19-20**

*This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.*



**DIGGING DEEPER**

This week in your daily Bible readings you will be digging deeper and reading about events following the birth of Jesus and other related passages. At the back of the journal are questions to help you think more deeply about the passages you read. The readings will cover events that you probably have read before but try to gain new and greater understanding from what you read. The Word of God is alive and speaks to us in new and deeper ways as we continue to study it.

**Digging Deeper:** What happened after Jesus' Birth?

**Reading 1:** Matt. 2:1-8

What is an important truth from the passage?

Why do you need to know that truth?

**Reading 2:** Matt. 2:9-12

What is an important truth from the passage?

Why do you need to know that truth?

**Digging Deeper:** What happened after Jesus' Birth?

**Reading 3:** Matt. 2:13-15

What is an important truth from the passage?

Why do you need to know that truth?

**Reading 4:** Matt. 2:16-18

What is an important truth from the passage?

Why do you need to know that truth?