



Wisdom on Display

Matthew 2:1-12

A decorative pattern of hexagons in various shades of blue, orange, and white, arranged in a honeycomb-like structure at the top of the slide.

Who is the wisest?

- When you think of someone being wise, who do you think of?
- Solomon
 - King of Israel
 - Son of David
 - Author of Proverbs, Song of Solomon (Song of Songs), Ecclesiastes

1 Kings 3:3-12

³ Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of David his father, only he sacrificed and made offerings at the high places. ⁴ And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I shall give you.” ⁶ And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹ Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?” ¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ And God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you.

Who is wise?



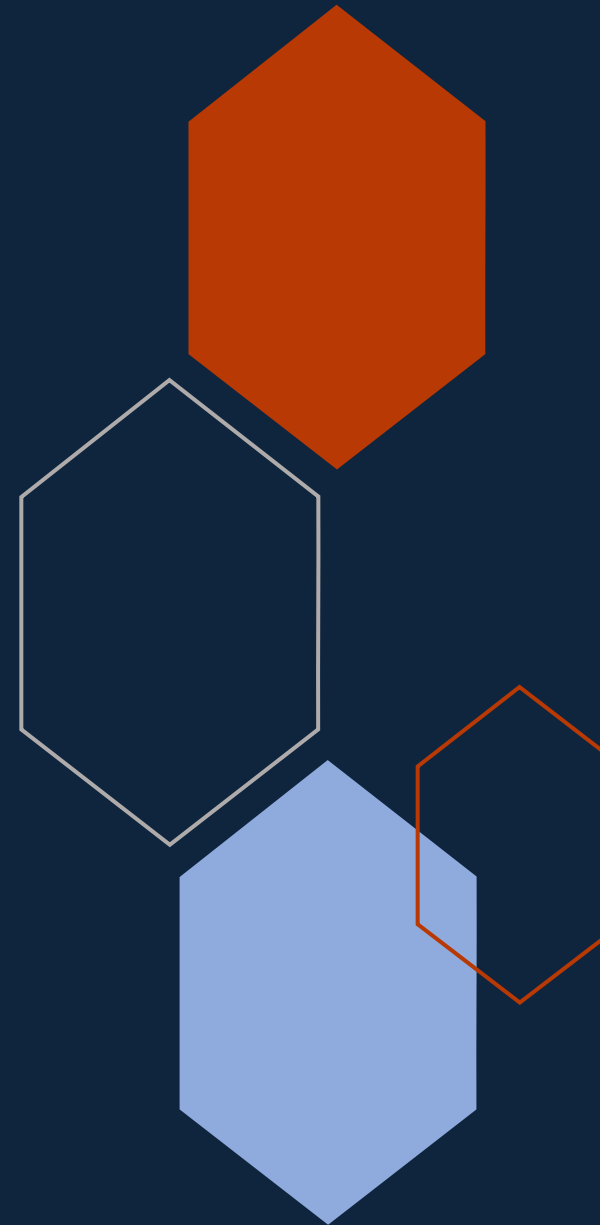
- Is there anyone you personally know you would deem as wise?
- “Marked by deep understanding, keen discernment, and a capacity for sound Judgement.”
- Possible examples: Elders, deacons, parents, grandparents, friends, coworkers, bosses.

Matthew 2:1-12

- ¹ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:
⁶ “‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’”
⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” ⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Who are the Magi?

- Derived from the Greek μάγος or magos.
“Which refers to wise man, magician, or a member of a priestly caste, often associated with astrology, magic and sacred knowledge”.
- Likely from Persia (Iran)
- Scholars believe they were familiar with prophecies, which may have been how they knew the star indicated the birth of Jesus.



Why include the Magi?

- Continuing the theme of prophecy fulfillment.
 - Isaiah 60:1-3, “¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
² For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.
³ And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.
- Psalm 72:10-11- “May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!
¹¹ May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!”
- Also introduces the audience to Gentiles worshipping Jesus.
 - They are part of God’s people too.



What is Worship?

- Προσεκύνησαν (prosekynasan)- comes from root word προσκυνέω (proskuneo) “to kiss the ground when prostrating before a superior; to *worship*, ready “to fall down/prostrate oneself to adore on one's knees”.



Gifts of the Magi

- The Magi brought gifts of Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh to offer as tribute to Jesus.
- What is the significance?
 - Foreshadowing
 - Fulfillment of prophecy
- Gold symbolizes Jesus' royalty.
- Frankincense, his divinity
- Myrrh, symbolic of his sacrificial death





Isaiah 60:6

- ⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD. Isaiah 60:6

What can we learn from the Magi?

- Three points
 1. Intentionally seek Jesus in our lives
 2. Jesus is worthy of all praise and worship
 3. We should give too





Intentionally seek Jesus

- The Magi intentionally sought out the King of the Jews.
- Recognized His power and majesty
- We too should seek out Jesus with INTENTION
- Look for Jesus' influence, impact and power
- Dig into the Word to find His divine will for us
- Pray!

Jesus is WORTHY of Praise and Worship

- When you recognize the worthiness of Jesus, you will spare no expense in worshipping Him.
- Give to Jesus our time, effort, mind, and soul
- Do we only worship on Sundays? Only in the auditorium?
- Worship him DAILY!
- Can be singing, praising, giving thanks, praying, etc...
 - Even while mowing, driving, or doing the dishes





Giving and serving

- The Magi gave gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
 - All very expensive and extremely valuable.
- We should give back a portion of what God has blessed us with.
 - But giving is not just monetary- give time, energy, service
- Devoting time to worship, serving Him, serving others, putting other's first.

A decorative pattern of hexagons in various shades of blue, orange, and white, arranged in a honeycomb-like structure on the left side of the slide.

Are you ready to seek Jesus?

- Don't know where to start?
We can help!
- Lost your fire? Let Jesus rekindle you.
- Use your gifts for the Savior