Matthew 2:1-12

King of the Jews

1. Wise people still the King

Wise people are always learning; always listening for fresh insights. P18:15

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not depend on your own understanding; In all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. Psalm 119:105

Where there is no vision, the people perish. Proverbs 29:18

2. Weak people still the King

Rejoice consistently; pray tirelessly; give thanks within all circumstances; because this is God's direction for your life in Christ Jesus. 1 Thess.5:16-18

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. P4:23

Rejoice, rejoice again... Be gentle... Pray... Be filled with thanksgiving.

Then the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:4-7

3. Wilful people still the King

Knowledge = Information, data, facts

..... = Practical application, useful

We didn't come this far, only to come this far!

Change is a process, not an event.

4. All people will the King

Jesus Christ will return as King of the Jews

Jesus Christ is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over all kings of the earth. Revelation 1:5

The Lamb will triumph: He is Lord of Lords and King of Kings Rev.17:14

By His investiture and His practice, He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Revelation 19:16

Discussion starters

- 1. What is your a favourite Christmas carol? Why do you think so many non-Christians sing carols?
- 2. What do you find is the best and worst of this time of year? Suggest 1 way of making the worst to become more bearable; and 1 way of making the best even better.
- 3. The wise men saw the star when they were in the east, then lost sight of it while they travelled, then saw it again after visiting Herod. What advice would you give someone who wanted God's guidance?
- 4. On the emotional continuum, are you more inclined to sadness or to anger? Why do you think that thanksgiving produces stability? What activities go well with thanks (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)? Why are these activities good accompaniments to thanks?
- 5. The Jewish priests and leaders knew that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem (Matthew 2:4-5). Why do you think they did not join the Wise Men in looking for the baby?
- 6. "Change is a process, not an event." Why is this helpful advice?
- 7. Jesus does not want to be King of the Jews. What does He want, and why does He want it?

My prayer priorities for this week