

GIFTED

What Christmas Means for You.



LESSON 4 // STAYING ON COURSE

Big Idea: To find God's purpose in your life, you need to stay on course with Him. The wise men in the Christmas story set a great example of this for us.

From the story of these men, we learn that finding God's purpose is the pathway to fulfillment. You will only find this purpose when you give the Lord your full attention and properly order your priorities. You also must seek Him with passion and persistence. Along the way, it's important to remember that God's purpose is found in what you give, not what you get.

Matthew 2:1-12 (NLT) *Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him." King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?" "In Bethlehem in Judea," they said, "for this is what the prophet wrote: 'And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.'" Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. Then he told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!" After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.*

Start Talking:

How well do you "stay on course" when you travel? How much do you depend on a GPS for this?

Start Thinking:

Read Jeremiah 29:13. How does this verse speak to you about giving God your full attention?

Matthew 1:1-2. What was the priority of the wise men? What are the priorities God wants you to have?

Read Matthew 2:9-10 and Matthew 7:7-8. Why is it so important to be persistent and passionate in order to stay on course with God's purpose?

Read Matthew 2:11-12. How does giving keep you in sync with God's purpose?

Start Praying and Doing:

Pray that God will grant you a heart to give generously to Him in worship and to others in His name. Look for opportunities to give sacrificially this week of your time, talent and treasure as a blessing to someone God puts in your pathway.