

Connecting Church and Home

Quarter 1, Week 1 :: **A King for the Nations**

Treasure Story: Matthew 2:1-12

Throughout the Old Testament, the Jewish people were waiting for the King to come and take His rightful place on the throne of David. As they waited, God fulfilled many prophecies in their midst such as the location of His birth in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). While we learn of Jesus' birth in today's Treasure Story and that the King of the Jews had finally come, we also find that Jesus not only came to the Jews but to all nations.

Connect

"God centers on himself, even in our salvation. Remember his words in Ezekiel: he saves us, not for our sake, but for the sake of his holy name. We have received salvation so that his name will be proclaimed in all nations."
– David Platt

The Magi were seeking the true King, the King who was the rightful heir to David's throne. What is so marvelous about the Magi seeking the King was that they were Gentiles from a foreign land. When they found Jesus, the new King, they fell on their faces and worshiped Him. This story in the first book of the New Testament sets the tone for the rest of the New Testament. Jesus came to redeem not just the Jewish people to Himself, but to redeem all nations. Take time this week to remember how Jesus came for everyone as you do these activities with your family:

- **Mission Fields Close By:** We do not have to go overseas to preach the good news to the nations. The nations have come to us. One effective way for us to preach the Gospel to the nations is to invite people who are foreign to dinner. You could invite a foreign exchange student or a neighbor or co-worker from a different part of the world. Going is a part of what Jesus wants us to do in preaching the Gospel, but a lot of the nations are right here in our backyard.
- **Praying for the Nations:** Every night for this week, pray for the nations as a family. Pray specifically for different unreached people groups. These groups are people who have no known believers among them. As you pray, pray for missionaries to go to them and also that many would come to know Jesus.

My Mission As Parent

- Do your children see your zeal for reaching the lost? Do they see that you long to tell others about Christ? Jesus tells us to go and reach the nations. Sometimes we are unable to go overseas, but we do have many opportunities to reach the lost. Let your children be around when you tell someone about Jesus.
- Another way to reach the lost as a family is to serve your community. Consider having a backyard Bible study during the summer or go to the park and hand out bottles of water to show that you love people because Jesus loves you. Help your children see that to obey Christ means to have a desire for serving others at our own expense.

Prayer Points

- Pray for God to raise up laborers to go and preach the good news.
- Pray that we would be bold in our own lives to preach Christ. Praise God that Jesus is a Redeemer for all who believe in Him.
- Praise Jesus that He died so that we might live with Him forever.