



## ***Born in a Barn: Week 4 — “Jesus' Messy Mission”***

**CONNECT:** What was the highlight of this Christmas season for you?

### **GROW:**

1. Read **Matthew 2:1-12**, the account of three pagan sorcerers who traveled hundreds of miles across a desert to find Jesus and worship Him. What stands out to you about this part of the Christmas story?
2. The wise men’s long journey to find Jesus was nothing compared to Jesus journeying from heaven to earth to find them (and all of us).
  - a. “For every step you take toward God, He takes thousands more in your direction. You walk, God runs. He bridges the distance, He closes the gap, and you are always within reach of His love.” Is it ever difficult for you to believe this is true?
  - b. Looking back on this year, how has your relationship with God been? Have you felt far away from God? Has God felt far away from you?
  - c. Do you need to take a step toward God? What’s holding you back?
3. Read Jesus’ words about Himself in **John 8:12**. Then read Jesus’ words to His followers in **Matthew 5:14-16**.
  - a. Where do you feel the weight of darkness most right now, whether that’s in the world in general or in your own life?
  - b. Where do you think He’s calling you to shine His light?

**PRAY:** Read **Revelation 21:25**, and use it to guide your prayer. Ask Jesus to help you cling to the hope He came to bring, and to help you trust that one day, He will eradicate the darkness and His light will shine forever. Pray for a heart that desires to shine His light for all to see.

**NEXT:** Make it a goal to spend an extended amount of time with Jesus this week. If you haven’t already yet, read the Christmas story in **Luke 1-2**, and spend time soaking it up and thanking God for sending His Son into our messy world to save us and give us the hope of heaven. Give God everything on your heart, and let yourself rest in the peace of Jesus.