



## Sermon Discussion Guide

**Title of the Sermon:** Gold: The Gift of a King

**Series Name:** *The Gift* (Part 1)

**Main Text:** Matthew 2:1–12

### Introduction

This guide can be used on your own or with a small group to reflect on the weekend message and apply it to your life. Choose the questions that work best for your group—there's no need to go through them all. To learn more, visit [silverdalebc.com/smallgroups](http://silverdalebc.com/smallgroups).

### Icebreaker Options

1. What's the most meaningful or memorable gift you've ever received at Christmas and why did it stand out to you?

**Leader's Note:** This week's message reminds us that the gold brought by the wise men symbolized Jesus' kingship. Each person in the Christmas story—and each of us today—must choose how we will respond to King Jesus. Encourage honest reflection: are we opposing, dismissing, or worshiping Him?

## **1. The Responses to King Jesus**

### **Herod: Oppose Jesus**

**Key Scripture:** Matthew 2:1–3, 16

*After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of King Herod, wise men from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star at its rising and have come to worship him.” When King Herod heard this, he was deeply disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.*

*Then Herod, when he realized that he had been outwitted by the wise men, flew into a rage. He gave orders to massacre all the boys in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under, in keeping with the time he had learned from the wise men.*

#### **Discuss:**

- Why do some people resist Jesus' authority or control in their lives?
- Where do you sometimes struggle to let Jesus be King? What helps you trust that His leadership is good, not threatening?

**Leader's Note:** Herod represents the heart that refuses to surrender control. Opposition to Jesus often shows up in pride, fear, or the need to stay “on the throne” of our own lives. The gospel invites us to trade self-rule for the peace of Christ's reign.

### **The Priests: Dismiss Jesus**

**Key Scripture:** Matthew 2:4–5

*So he assembled all the chief priests and scribes of the people and asked them where the Christ would be born. “In Bethlehem of Judea,” they told him, “because this is what was written by the prophet.”*

#### **Discuss:**

- Why do you think the priests didn't go and see, given what they knew about the Messiah's birth? In what ways can "knowing about" Jesus keep us from truly following Him?
- What's one way you could move from knowledge to action in your relationship with Jesus?

**Leader's Note:** The priests knew the Scriptures, yet did nothing with what they knew. Spiritual knowledge without obedience leads to apathy. Sometimes the greatest barrier to worship isn't disbelief—it's indifference.

## **Wise Men: Worship Jesus**

**Key Scripture:** Matthew 2:10–11

*When the Wisemen saw the star, they were overwhelmed with joy. Entering the house, they saw the Child with Mary His mother, and falling to their knees, they worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*

### **Discuss:**

- What does the Magi's humility teach us about worship?
- What does your worship reveal about who you truly believe Jesus to be? What would it look like to align these two things?

**Leader's Note:** The Magi were learned, powerful men—yet they humbled themselves before Jesus. True wisdom leads to worship. Their journey reminds us that joy and surrender are found when we seek and submit to Christ.

## **2.The Characteristics of King Jesus**

**Key Scripture:**

*Look, your King is coming to you; He is righteous and brings salvation, humble and riding on a donkey. (Zechariah 9:9)*

*For this reason God highly exalted him and gave Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow ... and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. (Philippians 2:9-11)*

**Discuss:**

- How is Jesus' kingship different from the world's idea of power and leadership?
- What does it mean to let Jesus "sit on the throne" of your daily life? How can you live in a way that reflects your allegiance to King Jesus?

**Leader's Note:** Jesus is unlike any earthly king—humble, compassionate, just, and sacrificial. He doesn't demand our worship through fear; He earns it through love. The gift of gold reminds us that He is worthy of our highest honor.

**Closing Prayer**

Invite your group to pray for hearts that truly worship Jesus as King. Encourage them to confess areas where they've resisted or ignored His rule and to commit themselves fully to Him.

**Prayer Prompt:**

"Lord Jesus, You are the King of kings and the Lord of lords. Forgive us when we've opposed or ignored You. This Christmas, we bow our hearts before You in worship. Reign in us with Your grace, truth, and peace. Amen."