

Lutheran FAQ: What is Epiphany?

What is the furthest you have traveled from home? What brought you that far?

What is one meaningful gift that you've been given?

The magi, or wise men, came to visit Jesus although they were completely unexpected visitors. When have you been surprised to see someone appear at worship? At your home? How did it go? _____

The magi followed the star to get where they were going. What "landmarks" guide your decisions about where to go? Faith? Family? Achievements? _____

Check out Matthew 2:1-12. Why was Herod scared when he heard about the star? Have you ever been scared about what God's word might mean for your life? _____

In this story, God speaks through dreams and prophecies as well as Scripture. How do you hear God when God speaks to you? Is it always the same way? _____

What questions do you have about Epiphany? _____

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Who lights the candles or carries the cross for worship in your congregation? How do they lead God's people toward Jesus? _____

Read Matthew 2:1-12. Herod and the Jerusalem elite are worried that the prophesied king will change their lives. How has Jesus changed your life? Has it always been the way you expected? _____

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What do you think it means that the angels talk directly to the magi and Joseph in dreams, but not with Herod? _____

What questions do you have about Epiphany? _____

Deeper Dive:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/06/world/epiphany-christmas.html> has a lovely description of Epiphany celebrations around the world in 2018.

"Distinctive Traditions of Epiphany" by Amber and John Inscore Essick is available by using the search bar at Baylor.edu. It discusses world traditions and has a brief liturgy for a house blessing. <https://buildfaith.org/chalking-the-door/> also has resources for holding your own home blessing this Epiphany.

Some congregations use "star words," inviting people to focus on one word or idea over the course of the year. You can learn more about this practice here:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/pt-0121-epiphany/>

Written by the ELCA South Carolina Synod to accompany the video " _____ " found at _____