

**January 1 | Sunday**  
**Joseph: The Flight to Egypt**  
Read [Matthew 2:13-23](#)



**02 | Mon – Trustworthy?** | Read [Matthew 2:1-8](#)

The Magi may have had a large entourage but it was their search for a new king that caught Herod's ear. From history, we know Herod committed violence to stay in power but here he hides his true intentions. He temporarily fooled the Magi but this show of piety did not fool the people in Jerusalem. Do you know someone whose smooth answers are less than genuine? In a world that is filled more with fear, hate and paranoia than with love, joy and peace, how can you keep your intentions honest in dealing with others?

**03 | Tue – Things are not always as they seem** | Read [Matthew 2:9-11](#)

Don't miss the incongruity here. The Magi, who were comfortable in Herod's court, saw Joseph's son in a peasant home and fell to their knees to honor him. What caused these wealthy visitors to see the intrinsic worth of this "common" baby? Have you ever made the mistake of looking only at external circumstances and missing hidden treasures. How can you make sure you don't miss what God is doing in the ordinary things of life?

**04 | Wed – The road less traveled** | Read [Matthew 2:12](#)

Geographically, Bethlehem is only five miles south of Jerusalem and a fearful king would have kept a close eye on the main travel routes. It might have taken real effort and planning for the Magi to find a road that was not being watched by Herod's men. Have you ever had to choose a more difficult road, filled with hardship, in order to stay true to your values and God's direction in your life? Was it worth it? Why or why not?

**05 | Thu – Another dream, another unwanted journey** | Read [Matthew 2:13-15](#)

Contrary to most Christmas pageants, Joseph did much more than stand by the manger while shepherds worshipped "his" baby. Knowing that Herod had killed several of his own sons to keep the throne, Joseph believed the angel's warning was a life-and-death matter. Immediately, Joseph took Mary and the baby to Egypt where they found safety, possibly in Jewish communities established there. As refugees, God protected them through Joseph's obedience. When and where have you found a safe place during a crisis?

**06 | Fri – A broken world** | Read [Matthew 2:16-18](#)

Innocent children murdered for power. This tragic chapter of the story reminds us that evil and tragedy are everywhere in a world that does not acknowledge Jesus as the true King. From his birth to the cross, Jesus lived in the shadow of evil, yet his life was preserved until his purpose was fulfilled. Jesus voluntarily gave up his life to secure your salvation, knowing that you might ultimately choose to reject Him. Who else loves you like that?

**07 | Sat – A safe boyhood home** | Read [Matthew 2:19-23](#) and [Luke 2:51-52](#)

Herod's fortress, the Herodium, literally overlooked Bethlehem. Because Herod's successor was just as evil, Joseph again obeyed the warning and moved his family to the "backwater" village of Nazareth in the opposite direction. Jesus was raised in obscurity, where he grew to maturity being known as Joseph's son, learning humility through obedience. How has God used the "humble" things in your life to help you grow to be more like Jesus?