

ADVENTus Series – Joy Notes
December 14, 2025
Matthew 2:1–12

The One Born King

How Worship Overflows Our Joy

I. The Power of Joy

Matthew 2:10 – “When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.”
(Literally: “They rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.”)

Joy is often robbed by:

- A. **Lack of Awareness** – Heads down, missing what God is doing.
- B. **Resistance to Change** – Comfort over calling.
- C. **Desire for Control** – Wanting to remain at the center.
- D. **Presence of Pride** – Self-reliance over God-dependence.
- E. **Absence of Stewardship** – No vision for kingdom impact.

Grace (charis) and **Joy (chara)** share the same root in the Greek language
Joy is “GRACE-filled DELIGHT.”

Joy is not just a feeling — it is a FRUIT. (Galatians 5:22–23)
God gives us a **Joy-cultivator** called WORSHIP.

II. Five Joy Cultivators Through a Life of Worship

A. A Posture of Awareness (Mt 2:2)

- 1. Many saw the star. Few understood.
- 2. The Magi were watching.
- 3. Their awareness came from Scripture (Numbers 24:17).
- 4. God spoke in a language they understood.

B. A Persistence of Faith (Mt 2:1)

- 1. Likely a 1–2 year journey from Babylon.
- 2. Our worship begins when we decide the journey is worth it.

C. A Proclamation of Kingship (Mt 2:2)

- 1. Herod was a *proxy king*.
- 2. Jesus is the promised, rightful King.
- 3. Worship names Jesus as King over all.

D. A Process of Surrender (Mt 2:11)

- 1. They humbled themselves before a Child.
- 2. Worship is daily surrender — bending our knee and heart.

E. A Practice of Generosity (Mt 2:11)

1. **Gold** – His Kingship
2. **Frankincense** – His Divinity & Priesthood
3. **Myrrh** – His Humanity & future Suffering

Generosity includes:

- **Time** – their long journey
- **Talent** – their wisdom and skill
- **Treasure** – gifts that would help care for Jesus

III. A Life of Worship = A Life of Joy

Worship that is:

- A. Heart-postured
- B. Faith-driven
- C. Jesus-proclaiming
- D. Self-surrendering
- E. Generously-practiced

... is joy-inducing, joy-illuminating, joy-incubating, and joy-illustrating.

LIFEgroup Questions:

1. Where is God inviting us to lift our eyes and become more aware of His work?
2. What steps of faith might we be currently resisting because of comfort or fear?
3. Where do we need to proclaim Jesus as King in our daily lives?
4. What areas of our lives needs a fresh surrender to Jesus?
5. How can we practice generosity with our time, talent, and treasure this week?