

# Looking Unto Jesus

## a chronological study of the life of Christ

Matthew 2:1-18; Luke 2:39-52; Matthew 3:1-17

Lesson 2

This lesson covers the period of time before Jesus' ministry began: the time between Jesus' birth and His baptism. In these accounts, we find people who worshiped, people who were indifferent, people who sought to kill Jesus, and people who were astonished by Him. We also hear the words from heaven announcing God's pleasure. Enjoy.

### Matthew 2:1-18

#### OVERVIEW

1. Read the verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed key words below. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). In this lesson, we will be marking the key characters of the text. Mark each of the key characters each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to each one.

Key Characters: *Lord/God, Jesus; the angel, Mary, Joseph, the wise men, and Herod*

Key word: *worship/worshiped and star*

3. Scan your markings of the *wise men*. These verses are the only verses in the Bible about the *wise men*. There are many presumptions about these *wise men* that are not founded in Scripture. Using the text, identify the false conclusions.

Many call them "kings from the east." What were they called?

How many *wise men* were there?

Where was Jesus when the *wise men* saw him (verse 11)?

- a. What impacted you most about the *wise men*?

## APPLICATION

1. The *wise men* came to Jerusalem (5 miles from Bethlehem) for what purpose? verse 2
2. What did the *wise men* call Jesus?
  - a. What did King Herod call Jesus? verse 4
  - b. Herod knew the *King of the Jews* to be *the Christ* (the promised Messiah). Herod wanted to eliminate the newborn *King*; *the wise men* wanted to *worship Him*. What are some reasons people have such different reactions to Jesus?
3. King Herod *gathered all the chief priests and scribes*, asking them *where the Christ was to be born*. That answer could only be found in Scripture; specifically Micah 5:2. What did Micah prophesy?
  - a. What was the description of Jesus in this verse?
  - b. Notice the last phrase of Micah's prophesy, *whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting*, was not included in the priests' words. Record the words of Psalm 90:2 which proclaim that He who *is from everlasting is God*.
4. The *chief priests and scribes* knew the prophesy of the Messiah. Yet, apparently, they had no desire to see Him. How can a person know Scripture, but not know Jesus?
  - a. What did Jesus say to the religious leaders in John 5:39?
  - b. Share something from your experience regarding when you came to love the Lord of the Scriptures?
5. Consider your markings of the *star*. The *star* led the *wise men* to Jesus. You may not have been led to Jesus by a star, but you have your own story. Who or what brought you to Jesus?

6. Scan the remaining verses of Matthew 2:1-18 and share one thing that you noticed.

## Luke 2:39-52

### OVERVIEW

1. The verses preceding Luke 2:39 record the time of Mary and Joseph taking Jesus to the temple, as we studied last week. We pick up on the story with them returning to Nazareth. Read through the verses using both your Observation Worksheet and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed key words below. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). In this lesson, we will be marking the key characters of the text. Mark each of the key characters each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to each one.

Key Characters: *Lord/God, Jesus; Mary and Joseph* (you may want to mark them the same)

3. Imagine yourself to be one of the relatives with Joseph and Mary on the return journey from Jerusalem. Share, as you would to someone who asked you, "What happened? Where was Jesus?".

### APPLICATION

1. We know nothing about the years of Jesus' early life between their return to Nazareth and the journey to Jerusalem when Jesus was twelve years old. What does verse 40 reveal about Jesus?
  - a. Jesus was fully God and fully man. Thus, as a child, He *grew* in the understanding of spiritual things. Consider the words used to describe Him in verse 40. Although no one can experience those things as Jesus did, we can experience each of them. Describe a person who is:

*strong in spirit*

*filled with wisdom*

*has the grace of God upon them*

2. Although God was working these things in Jesus, what did the people say about Him? See Matthew 13:54-56.
    - a. The people were blind to who Jesus was. How can that happen?
  3. Along with many Jews, Jesus and his family *went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of Passover (Unleavened Bread)*. What is the command of Deuteronomy 16:16?
  4. Joseph and Mary were a day's journey on their way home when they discovered that Jesus was not with them. They returned to Jerusalem and *after three days they found Him in the temple*. According to Luke 2:46, what was Jesus doing?
  5. What was the reaction of those who *heard and saw Him*?
    - a. Jesus *astonished and amazed* many. Look up the following verses and record how the people reacted. **Challenge:** on a separate sheet of paper, record the context of each.  
Matthew 7:28  
Mark 1:22  
Luke 4:22  
Luke 4:32  
John 7:15  
John 7:46
- 1.) What amazes you about Jesus?

6. Reflect upon the interaction between Mary and Jesus in Luke 2:48,49. What do you see?
  - a. In what ways do you personally relate this to times when you don't understand what God is doing "to you"?
7. Notice the word, *subject* (submitted to), in verse 51. What can we learn about Jesus' submission from this verse?

## **Matthew 3:1-17**

### **OVERVIEW**

1. Read through the verses using both your Observation Worksheet and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed key words below. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). In this lesson, we will be marking the key characters of the text. Mark each of the key characters each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to each one.

Key Characters: *LORD/God; Jesus; Holy Spirit, and John the Baptist*

### **APPLICATION:**

1. Prior to Jesus beginning His ministry, John the Baptist *came preaching in the wilderness*. Using verse 2, record his message to the people.
  - a. According to verses 5,6, what was the response of the people?
2. The ministry of John the Baptist was prophesied by Isaiah in Isaiah 40:3. What were Isaiah's words?

3. John had a different message for the *Pharisees and Sadducees* in verses 7-12. It was a message of rebuke and warning. Using verse 7, what was His warning?
  
4. What did John the Baptist say about Jesus in verse 11?
  - a. Record God's verification of this in:  
John 1:33  
  
Acts 1:5 (declared by Jesus)
  
5. Read verses Matthew 3:13-17. Write the story in your own words as you would relate it to someone of that day who has heard rumors of what happened.
  - a. What is your favorite part?

**Challenge:** Record something you learned from the parallel accounts in Mark 1:1-11 and John 1:19-34

## REVIEW

1. What are some things that spoke to you from this lesson?

*...Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*  
- John 1:29

## Observation Worksheet

**Matthew 2:1-18** Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." <sup>3</sup>When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup>And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>*'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.'*" <sup>7</sup>Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. <sup>8</sup>And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also." <sup>9</sup>When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. <sup>11</sup>And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way. <sup>13</sup>Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." <sup>14</sup>When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, <sup>15</sup>and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "*Out of Egypt I called My Son.*" <sup>16</sup>Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. <sup>17</sup>Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: <sup>18</sup>"*A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.*"

**Luke 2:39-52** So when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him. <sup>41</sup>His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast. <sup>43</sup>When they had finished the days, as they returned, the Boy Jesus lingered behind in

Jerusalem. And Joseph and His mother did not know it; <sup>44</sup> but supposing Him to have been in the company, they went a day's journey, and sought Him among their relatives and acquaintances. <sup>45</sup> So when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him. <sup>46</sup> Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers. <sup>48</sup> So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously." <sup>49</sup> And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" <sup>50</sup> But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them. <sup>51</sup> Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup> And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

**Matthew 3:1-17** In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, <sup>2</sup> and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" <sup>3</sup> For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: "*The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.'*" <sup>4</sup> And John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him <sup>6</sup> and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, <sup>9</sup> and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. <sup>10</sup> And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup> I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." <sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" <sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him. <sup>16</sup> When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. <sup>17</sup> And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."