



## THE WAY TO UP, IS DOWN

Matthew 2

### **Backstory on 4 people/groups:**

**Magi:** advisors to kings

**Herod:** vicious and bloodthirsty Judean King

**Chief priests:** representing Jewish worship. Corrupt.

**Teachers** of the law (Scribes): representing Jewish law. Meh.

**Matthew 2:1-12**

**Gold:** gift for a \_\_\_\_\_

**Frankincense:** gift for \_\_\_\_\_,

**Myrrh:** someone who would \_\_\_\_\_.

**Herod:** working for up, but finding \_\_\_\_\_.

**Jesus:** through birth and life shows the way \_\_\_\_\_

**Matthew 16:24-26** Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. <sup>26</sup> What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?"

**Our greatest power is that we are deceitful enough to believe our own lies.**

**Herod:** follow your desires, avoid crosses, get.  
**Jesus:** serve others, pick up your cross daily, give.

Philippians 2:3-11

**Where do I find myself this Christmas?**



1. What is your favourite Christmas tradition?
2. Read Matthew 2:1-12. Share your thoughts or reactions to this passage.
3. Imagine what the star looked like! How would the Magi have known it was Jesus' star? Why would Gentile astrologers leave everything to follow the star and find Jesus?
4. Why do you think the priests and scribes were not aware of Jesus' birth? What do you suppose they were looking for (if anything)?
5. What significance do you see in the star? The Magi? The gifts? The town of Bethlehem?
6. How did the Magi respond to finding Jesus? (v 10)
7. In your journey toward God how are you like the Magi? Unlike them?
8. How are we sometimes like the priests and scribes? Herod?
9. What is the most difficult thing in your life to give up in order to seek Jesus whole-heartedly?
10. What holds you back from seeking Jesus with complete abandon? What makes a relationship with Jesus so valuable that it's worth giving up everything?