

**The Offense of the Christ Resume**  
**Matthew 2:1-12**  
**December 26, 2021**

**I. When Good News Is Offensive (V. 1-8)**

- A. Good news is offensive when it hurts our pride.
- B. Good news is offensive when it calls us to change.
- C. Good news is offensive when it threatens our safety.

**II. When Good News Is Good (V. 9-12)**

- A. Good news is good when God is our desire.
- B. Good news is good when worship is our goal.

The good news of Jesus Christ is invincible.

## **Group Discussion Questions**

1. Read Matthew 2:1-12.
2. What do you think the presence of the wise men in Jerusalem after the birth of the Messiah says about God's glory?
3. Why do you think King Herod and all of Jerusalem were "disturbed" and not happy to hear about the birth of the King of the Jews? What are some things that make people disturbed to hear the good news of Jesus today?
4. What does this passage say about the wise men's motivation for seeking Jesus? What should our motivation be for seeking Jesus?
5. What does the failure of Herod's plan say about the sovereignty of God against the rage of man? What are some modern-day examples of governments and kingdoms that have raged against God and failed?
6. Pray for our church, that our members would be on mission among lost family and friends this holiday season. Consider coming to tonight's online church prayer meeting at 7 pm (register from the church website on the homepage).

## **Church Bible Reading Plan**

Bible Reading Plan: Job 1-3

December Memory Verses: Jeremiah 48:29-31



**2 Thessalonians 3:1-2 (ESV)**

*<sup>1</sup> Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, <sup>2</sup> and that we may delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith.*

**BEFORE Sunday Night Prayer Meeting:**

If you have not done so already, register from the [www.apollobaptist.org](http://www.apollobaptist.org) home page by clicking the image for the Prayer Meeting. The registration will last through 12/26/2021.

Register with your name and email address.

Click on the emailed Zoom link at the time of the Prayer Meeting.

**Sunday Night Prayer Meeting:**

- PRAYING for our missionaries around the world and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering going to them.

**Pray for Our Church Family Needs:**

- PRAY for missions and missionaries:  
Andy & Lindsay M. in Spain, Steve & Joy V. in Turkey, David & Comfort J. in Nigeria, Luke P. in Maricopa, Arizona, Nathan & Becky F. in Indonesia, Sylvia M. at ASU West, Arizona, John T. in California, Doug & Cheryl D. in Thailand, and Jules S. in Thailand
- PRAY for all our students: elementary, middle school, high school, and college. No matter whether they are in the classroom, an on-line setting, or a home school setting our students are forming minds that need to focus on Christ.
- Family & friends of church members who need salvation or to renew their relationship with Jesus
- Families who are grieving the recent loss of loved ones:  
Anita O., Alea O., Andi P. (son and brother), Reginald G. (sister), Monica M. (mother, JoAnn T.), Jeanette C., Ruthie C., Floyd and Karen C. (daughter, niece, Mary E.), Cordero C. (grandfather), Marge D. (brother), Ida S. (two sisters-in-law), Frances P. (brother-in-law), Dorothy C. (sister-in-law), Rita H. (daughter-in-law), Kelly J., Rick S., & Andrew R. and other family members (sister, aunt, & mother, Julie R.), Paul & Kathy Weed (daughter-in-law), Gwen L. (brother)
- Those struggling with on-going health and other issues:  
Michelle L. (unexplained health issues), Gaylon K. (recovering from surgery), Mary R. (upcoming kidney transplant), Debbie B. (blood clots, hip pain), Leon V. (chemotherapy), Ann C.-W. (health issues), Ruthie C. (tumor/kidney stone), Margaret J's husband (non-COVID pneumonia), and Raul O. (recovering from triple bypass surgery)
- Those struggling with COVID
- Others that you are aware of