



28 November 2025

Which Star Are You Following?

We are nearing the end of the first week of Advent. How are you doing in reflecting and preparing to celebrate Christ's birth? Have these first days been meaningful?

Key here is focus. What are you seeking and following? Which *star* are you following?

I recall a comic in which a six-year-old girl had her sights set high. She was going to be a billionaire by the time she was 30! So, she put up a wall-sized poster in her bedroom of her star to help her keep focused, Oprah Winfrey. She took it down after a while, replacing it with her new star, Bill Gates.



There are many different stars we can follow—goals, dreams, values, causes and, during this season, sights, aromas, events and obligations which are glittering, enticing us to follow them.

So, which star will you be following, are you following during this season? To honor God and experience a truly meaningful Christmas there is only one Star to follow, Jesus Christ.

When we think of the Christmas star we also think of “magi from the east” who followed the star so they could worship the one “who has been born King of the Jews.” The Bible does not tell us much about them. We don't know how many there were. We do know they were not kings, but civil, political and religious counselors. Other than the Bible telling us they came “from the east” of Israel, we don't know where they were from. We know they were sincere in their search by their time and effort, and were dedicated to it, and valued it by the expensive gifts they brought for this newborn king. They recognized something far from normal was occurring, that someone extraordinary was coming into the world. They followed the star and were the first Gentiles to see Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world.

There are some valuable lessons to learn from them. First, be open to, search for and follow the True Star, Jesus Christ, as the magi did. Most of Jerusalem did not. Matthew tells us “when Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.” His focus was on his position and power. Today, while the trees and lights, carol singing and music, parties and family gatherings,

gift buying and giving have their places, make sure your focus is on Jesus. Follow Him to lead you to honor God, and so be enriched in this season.

A second lesson is not to be distracted from following the True Star. The magi carefully followed the course of the star. When the star apparently disappeared from their view for a time, they went to the logical place to find a newborn king, to the palace. The king sent them to Bethlehem, and the star reappeared and led the way. God intervened and told them not to report back to Herod, so they went home by another way. Countless different distractions thrust themselves in front of us. You may feel guilty, may feel like a Scrooge if you say “No” to some of the sparkling good ones. Keep your focus.

As well, also know that your emotions, worship and direction are all affected positively when you follow the True Star. The magi were hilariously happy when the star reappeared. When they came to the house where Jesus was “they fell down and worshiped Him.” We don’t know if this was a formal, respectful acknowledgment, or if some or all of them came to place their faith in God. Following the star affected their entire being, their outlook and their direction. As God’s people through Christ, we can be certain that if our focus is on Him it will positively, wonderfully affect our entire being.

Yes, make sure you are actually following the True Star this Christmas.

Pastor Lyle