

Personal Application and Conversations

1. Who is your favorite character in all the stories about Christmas?
2. Talk about your confidence level in keeping secrets.
3. What do you think God wants you to do with what you know about the star of Bethlehem?
4. How does your response to the child Jesus compare to the response with the wise men?
5. We have plans for our lives. But God sovereignly directs our paths just as He redirected the thoughts and steps of the wise men. Describe ways He has redirected your life and your response to Him.



Deciphering the Intentions of the Heart

Matthew 2:5-12

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How do you decipher the thoughts and intents of the heart? And why should it matter to you if someone's intentions are less than honorable? Well, Jesus did say be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. His word chronicles accounts of people trying and succeeding in pulling the wool over the eyes of unsuspecting fools, as Proverbs calls them. A person's words can reveal intentions, but they are proven by what they do. Let's do some soul searching in Matthew's account of the First Advent of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. **Let's act on what we claim to know.**

Matthew's intentions

Wise men's intentions

God's intentions

Herod's intentions