

Weekly Discussion Guide – 12-17-2023

“From the East”
Matthew 2:1-12

1. Have you ever felt like an outsider and had someone say or do something to make you feel like you were brought “in”?
2. Read Matthew 2:1-12. What can you imagine the different characters are thinking and feeling in this episode of the Christmas story?
3. This event is known in the Church as *Epiphany*, which means something is revealed or discovered. What is being revealed or discovered in this story? What clues suggest the answer?
4. Thomas Keating, a monk and priest, wrote that humans have three categories of need: 1) security and survival, 2) power and control, and 3) affection and esteem. What tendencies do you have to get these needs met in ways that don't align with the way of Jesus?
5. Can you think of any tangible steps you can take to “put off” these old familiar ways?
6. Matthew 2:12 says that after encountering the Christ child, the Magi returned to their country “by another way.” Can you think of how you might replace the old ways with new ones?