



Part 1: The Outsiders
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One thing you need to know about the Wise Men:

They were outsiders.

How does God deal with outsiders?

¹ After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." – *Matthew 2:1-2*

He calls and includes them.

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. – *Matthew 2:9*

He leads them.

¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. – *Matthew 2:10-11*

He meets them.

¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. – *Matthew 2:12*

He sends them.

Why does this matter to us at Christmas?

We are outsiders.

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. – *Colossians 1:21*

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What's the good news of Christmas?

Jesus wants to include us!

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. – *Ephesians 2:13*

What is the message of Christmas?

Jesus came near.

Jesus came to include you in His family.

Jesus wants you to come home.

Next Steps

Jesus has included us in all that he offers, and he wants us to include others. Write down the name of at least one unchurched person you can invite to join you at a Christmas Eve service or a family get-together this season. For each name you write down, take home a Christmas Eve invitation (found in the Commons) and make time this week to give invitations to those people. Don't worry about an immediate "yes" from them. Let them take time to decide.

I will invite _____

Small Group Questions



- 1) How many Christmas songs or movies can you think of that have the word home in them? (e.g. I'll Be Home for Christmas, etc.)
- 2) Where is home for you? Your current address, the place where you grew up, your parent's home, not sure, heaven?
- 3) Have you ever felt like an outsider? What did that feeling cause you to do?
- 4) Take some time on this last one:
 - a. How is God including you in His family and plan?
 - b. Where is God leading you right now?
 - c. How has God met you in the past week?
 - d. Where is God sending you and what is He asking you to do once you get there?
- 5) How can we pray for you tonight?