Matthew 2:1–2 (ESV)

[1]Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, [2]saying, "Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him.

Matthew 2:7–8 (ESV)

[7]Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. [8]And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the Child, and when you have found Him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship Him."

Matthew 2:9–12 (ESV)

[9]After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the Child was. [10]When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. [11]And going into the house, they saw the Child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. [12]And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Like the Wise Men, we can CHOOSE WORSHIP

in the midst of _____!

RIVERBLUFF CHURCH

MAKING DISCIPLES | WHO MAKE DISCIPLES | WHO CHANGE THE WORLD



WORSHIP WHOLLY!

<u>Today's BIG IDEA</u>

What we need is not "A Little Christmas", but

_____!

<u>2026 CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE</u>

HAVE YOURSELF A _____ CHRISTMAS!

_____ is a journey leading to more JESUS!

(Search: Biola University 2026 Advent Project)

Micah 5:2 (NLT)

"But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a Ruler of Israel whose origins are in the distant past, will come from you on My behalf."

2 Samuel 7:12–13 (NLT)

"For when you die and are buried with your ancestors, I will raise up one of your descendants, your own offspring, and I will make his kingdom strong. And I will secure his royal throne forever.

Isaiah 7:14 (NLT)

"The Lord Himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us').

Malachi 3:1 (CEV)

"Then suddenly the Lord you are looking for will appear in his temple."

"*THE WORLD GETS DARKER AND DARKER AND THEN JESUS IS BORN!"* –Wendell Berry

To "Counter the Culture", we must see CHRISTMAS as a _____!

To "Counter the Culture", we must choose to _____!

Luke 1:31–32 (ESV)

"And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus. "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High."

Luke 1:46–55 (ESV)

[46]And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, [47]and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, [48]for He has looked on the humble estate of His servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; [49]for He who is mighty has done great things for me, and Holy is His Name. [50]And His mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation. [51]He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; [50H]he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; [53]He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty. [54]He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, [55]as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to His offspring forever."

Like Mary, we can CHOOSE WORSHIP in the midst of _____!

Luke 2:8–14 (ESV)

[8]And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. [9]And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. [10]And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. [11]For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. [12]And this will be a sign for you: you will find a Baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." [13]And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, [14]"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"

Luke 2:15–20 (ESV)

[15]When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." [16]And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Baby lying in a manger. [17]And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this Child. [18]And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. [19]But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. [20]And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Like the Shepherds, we can CHOOSE WORSHIP in the midst of _____!