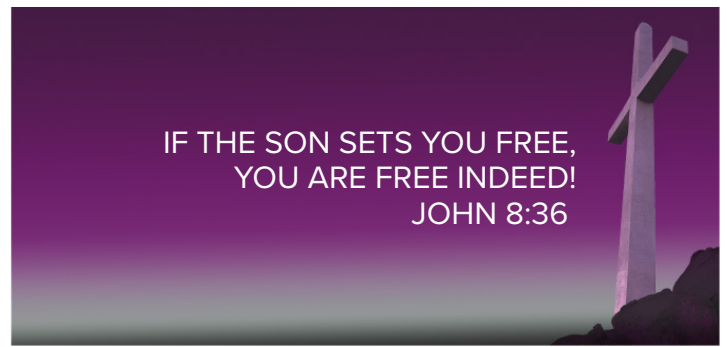


Jesus IOI

“Grace Thoughts”



A short devotional to help get you excited about Jesus!

“We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.” –Matthew 2:2

Once, when I was going through a troublesome time, I looked outside and saw a thick fog through my window. I could barely make out the treetops and everything was shrouded in a dense haze. I realized that this phenomenon matched the landscape of my heart: I couldn't see anything, and I didn't know where I was heading. Still, I felt God speaking to me in my heart, “I will guide you through the fog: just don't let go of my hand.” Knowing that God would lead me brought great peace into my heart, even though I didn't have all the answers. Two decades have gone by, and God has guided my steps all along, especially when I felt absolutely blind in my journey.

Matthew tells the story about the wise men who came from the east (Matthew 2:1-12). A core teaching of this story, which is unique to Matthew, is that God initiates communication with these foreigners through a bright and unusual star (which was the way that they could understand), and thus guides them towards Jesus. That God would communicate with these “Magi from the east” was an alien and challenging concept for Matthew's predominantly Jewish audience. The Magi were a priestly caste of astronomers and magicians from Persia or Babylon, who were often trusted advisors to the king (see Daniel 1; 2). Yes, God guided them! As in the times of the Old Testament, when God communicated the future through dreams to Pharaoh and Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, God continues to communicate with all who would heed His voice. And God desires to guide us to a deeper revelation of Jesus. He is the greatest expert in communication and guidance! He knows how to reveal His path to all of us, no matter how spiritually and emotionally distant we may think ourselves to be. He is able to reach us, as well as our children and grandchildren, friends and family. And He doesn't give up! Be assured that whenever we choose to do God's will, He will surely reveal it to us! And that is one of the most comforting thoughts we could end this year with. May this be our testimony: We saw . . . and came to worship Him!

Talbot, Elizabeth *Jesus Wins!*, p. 380.