

## **Lectionary Bible Study**

### **For Sunday, January 4, 2026 (Epiphany of our Lord)**

#### **Isaiah 60:1-6**

##### **Discussion Starters**

1. Go back and read Isaiah 59. Notice that verse 21 is a pivot point in the prophecy. What in that verse causes the change in attitude in chapter 60?
2. What reasons does the prophet give for his admonition to "rise and shine?"
3. What is meant by the images of light and darkness?
4. What is it that draws the nations together? Read John 12:32. What does this mean for the church today?

#### **Ephesians 3:1-12**

##### **Discussion Starters**

1. What exactly is the mystery Paul is talking about?
2. How does one come to understand this mystery? How would you explain it to someone doesn't get it?
3. What is the role of the church in the revealing of this mystery?
4. Why does Paul describe himself as "less than the least of all God's people?" If this description was true of him, why did God use him? What does that say about how God can use you?

#### **Matthew 2:1-12**

##### **Discussion Starters**

1. Who were these Magi (wise men)? Why would they leave everything to follow a star? What do you learn about them from the Isaiah reading for this Sunday (see above)?
2. What was the response of the Magi upon seeing Jesus? How is that response similar or different from the response of people today who encounter Him?
3. What do the star, the Magi, the hostility of Herod, the gifts and the prophecy say about the significance of Jesus?
4. What was their motivation for going to see Jesus?
5. In what way(s) are you like the Magi?

#### **WRAP UP**

What key insight did you gain from this Bible study? How might it make a difference in how you live today?