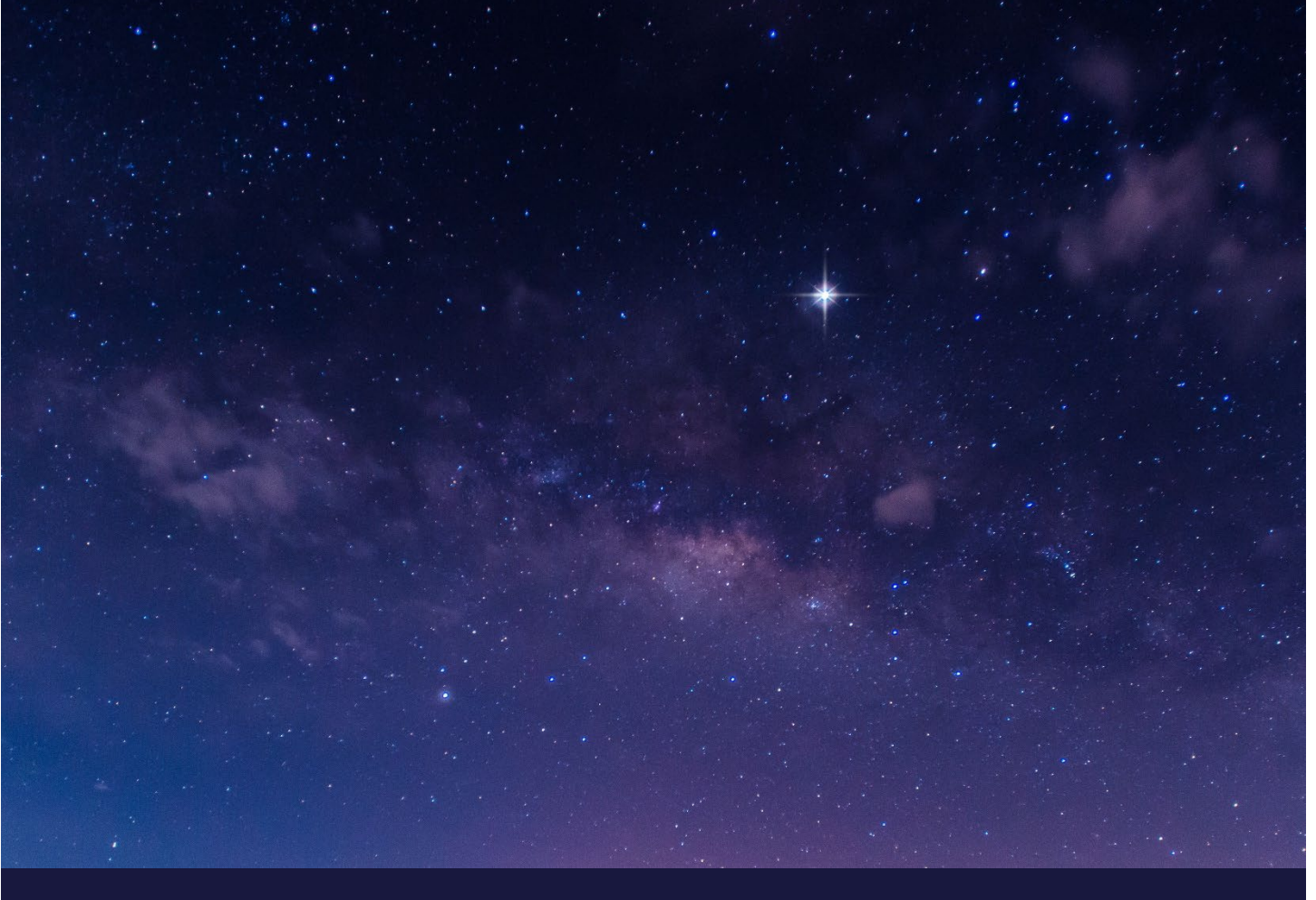


# Curriculum



***Epiphany***

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**LEARN: Overview**

Biblical Business Training (“BBT”) equips people to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and empowers leaders in a small-group Bible study setting to apply Biblical principles at work. Our mission is [Faith for Work](#) – and our vision is [Leadership for Life](#)!

To find out more, visit [www.B-B-T.org](http://www.B-B-T.org).

**Curriculum: The BBT 1-2-3™ Format**

BBT's curriculum is Biblically-based and applicable the day you study it. The *BBT 1-2-3™* format enables the group to consistently fit a meeting into a busy work week (e.g. before work or over a lunch hour, etc.). The Agenda and Recap are sent through Go!Connect to help group members prepare and continue discussion for accountability.



**Agenda** – Introduces applicable Biblical principles



**Group Leader Guide** – Facilitates discussion and allows for shared leadership



**Recap** – Encourages community and application

**LIVE: Apply Biblical principles at work**

Small group discussion begins typically with prayer, reading the Agenda together for context, then reading scripture and discussing the included questions. Questions are chosen to help the members in the study apply the scripture to their workplace and lives through group discussion. The Application Question is for group application and accountability between meetings.

**Sample discussion question:** Read Nehemiah 7:1-3. What do these verses teach you about delegation?

**Sample application question:** In what areas of your life have you been encouraged to do some humble self-evaluation and practice repentance?

**LEAD: Start a small-group Bible study**

The Lead question is for holistic life application at work, home, church, and in the community.

**Sample lead question:** Ask Yourself: How can I have the courage to face opposition, engage in necessary confrontation, and encourage others where God has placed me?

**Learn more at:**

Curriculum Samples: <https://b-b-t.org/curriculum/>

Contact a Coach: <https://b-b-t.org/coaching/>

Start Leading: <https://b-b-t.org/startleading/>



## PRAYERS



## LEARN

**Conditional Gifts**

Do you ever read advice columns, blogs, or posts? Covering the intersection between etiquette and personal relationships, these writers take on the everyday issues we face. A popular and oft-repeated theme is around the giving and receiving of gifts:

*"I invited my aunt to my expensive wedding reception, and she only gave me a \$25 gift card!"*

*"I handmade a quilt for my daughter-in-law and she doesn't even use it!"*

*"My dad gives my kids gifts that are too expensive, and I can't compete!"*

*"My sibling is taking my parents on vacation, but not me!"*

As the giver, we may come to expect an unreasonable level of gratitude or specific reactions. As the receiver, we may resent the lack of time, thought, or money put into the gift, or perhaps we believe we are entitled to a more grandiose gesture to mend a broken relationship. Too often the gesture of gift-giving comes with strings attached and seems to be a pitfall of disappointed expectations. Instead, gifts are meant to be given and received unconditionally – like the gift of Jesus.

**Unconditional Gift**

The greatest gift the world has ever known, the long-awaited one, God's own Son given to us and for us was also met with lavish gifts. The Wise Men, or Magi, are somewhat mysterious figures. The Bible doesn't tell us where they came from, or what their names were, but it does tell us that they arrived sometime after the birth of Jesus – probably before He was 2 years old -- and before the family had to flee to Egypt. They traveled a long way and they brought extravagant gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. In many church traditions, the celebration of the coming of the wise men is called Epiphany (a great realization) and is celebrated twelve days after Christmas. It is a time when we, like the Wise Men, realize how great a gift God has given us in the birth of Jesus.



## LIVE

**Discussion questions:** Read the text and scriptures below, and prepare to answer the questions.

1. Read [Matthew 2:1-2](#). How do you stay aware of what God is doing in the world around you?
2. Read [Matthew 2:2-8](#). When have you seen others (or even yourself) feel threatened by what God was doing around you? How did they respond?
3. Read [Matthew 2:9-12](#). How would you describe the reaction of the wise men to finding Jesus, particularly as opposed to Herod's reaction?
4. Read [Matthew 2:13-16](#). When have you experienced the "whiplash" of going from great times to difficulty?
5. Read [John 3:16-21](#). What do you do when you find yourself hoping that you can keep something secret?

**Application Question:** Change is a constant at work, and if we don't move with it we get left behind. How can you set aside fear to be open to what God will do next in your life?



## PRAYERS

## Epiphany



## PRAYERS

## Opening Prayer &amp; Prayer Requests



## LEARN

Before you begin, read the AGENDA LEARN introduction together and review the APPLICATION QUESTION from the previous meeting's RECAP.



## LIVE

**Discussion Questions:** Have someone read each Bible verse aloud and then ask the corresponding question. Be sure everyone has enough time to find the Scripture before the verse is read.

- 1) Read [Matthew 2:1-2](#). Think back on your work history and share **at least** the times you realized God had you exactly where you needed to be at exactly the right time.



POINT

Part of living by faith is keeping our eyes open to see the ways that God is working in our lives.



DEEPER

We might assume everything worked out via coincidence, "luck of the universe" but God is always working things out for our good. Many scholars have suggested the wise men were Jews left behind after the Babylonian exile or had learned of God at that time. Either way, they were more on the lookout for this event, that had been foretold, than many living in Judea. They and even their ancestors had spent their *whole lives* studying the stars looking for the sign from God and studying scripture to know when they had seen that sign.



TIP

For additional discussion you might ask, "What has God done in your life that fills you with great joy and how are you sharing that gift with others?"

## Notes:

- 2) Read [Matthew 2:2-8](#). When have you seen others (or even you yourself) feel threatened by what God was doing around you? What was the response?



POINT

When you feel threatened, consider God loves you with no strings attached and will redeem you.



DEEPER

Herod was an outsider put in place to rule Judea. His family was full of ambitious kings who got their thrones through theft, murder, and scheming worthy of any Shakespeare history or Game of Thrones book. King Herod felt threatened because the Wise Men were giving his title (King of the Jews) to someone else. Because Herod loved the status quo, and the power it gave him, more than God's redemption of the world, he was willing to murder thousands of babies to keep his position. (See [Matthew 2:16](#))

## Notes:



- 3) Read [Matthew 2:9-12](#). How would you describe the reaction of the wise men to finding Jesus, particularly as opposed to Herod's reaction?



Herod and the Wise Men reacted in completely opposite ways to the news of Jesus' birth.



Herod was leading with strings attached - responding out of fear for his position and acting in a way that harmed everyone around him. The Wise Men responded out of love, giving rich gifts and bringing joy to those around them. The wise men brought gifts fitting not to a carpenter's son born in a stable but fitting a king. Gold represented royalty with frankincense and myrrh symbolizing religious ceremonies and burial rituals of high priests, a foreshadowing of Jesus' life to come.



Share a time that you have been so filled with joy that you couldn't help but respond by giving richly of yourself whether it be of your goods, efforts, or self.

Notes:

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- 4) Read [Matthew 2:13-16](#). When have you experienced the "whiplash" of going from great times to difficulty?



Good times do not always last, it can be easy to get discouraged by the sudden changes.



Just like in our own lives, Jesus' story takes a sudden and unexpected turn when the holy family finds themselves fleeing the country in fear for their lives. God provided for them through the gifts given by the Magi.



For additional discussion, you might ask, "When have you looked back on a difficult experience and realized that God had been providing for you all along?"

Notes:

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- 5) Read [John 3:16-21](#). Have you ever caught yourself doing something you were ashamed of and hoped no one would find out? How did you handle it?



Jesus is the light, but sometimes we prefer darkness, in the hope that we can get away with pursuing our own selfish motivations.



The wise men knew that Jesus was the light, but Herod preferred to perpetuate the darkness, lest everyone see his own sins and faults. Because of his selfish motivations, Herod missed out on everything God was about to do in the world. Notice God's plan was fulfilled anyway! We can choose to repent, be forgiven, and participate in what God is doing. (See [1 John 1:8-9](#))

Notes:

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Epiphany

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Application Question: Change is a constant at work, and if we don't move with it, we get left behind. How can you set aside fear to be open to what God will do next in your life?



## PRAYERS

Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer

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## LEAD

Ask Yourself: What have I realized I need to confess to be free of fear and respond in love?

Sample



## PRAYERS

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## ROADMAP

This [BBT](#) volume of curriculum reveals how God is always at work – in the world and in our lives – lavishly offering gifts of love, grace, and salvation. These gifts are different from the world's in that they are unconditional. When we accept these kinds of gifts, God helps us respond to the circumstances of our lives with love and joy.



## LEARN

Magi saw the sign of God's greatest gift revealed and came with joy bringing gifts to give. Herod felt threatened for fear of losing his title and power. Jesus tells Nicodemus that God sent him to save the world rather than condemn it.

Scripture References for this study: [Matthew 2:1-2](#), [Matthew 2:2-8](#), [Matthew 2:9-12](#), [Matthew 2:13-16](#), [1 John 1:8-9](#), and [John 3:16-21](#)



## LIVE

- Realize Timing
- Realize Responses
- Realize Provision

Application Question: Change is a constant in work, and if we don't move with it, we get left behind. How can you set aside fear to be open to what God will do next in your life?



## LEAD

**Ask Yourself:** What have I realized I need to confess to be free of fear and respond in love?