

## **Hearing / Listening to God**

### ***I'm going to tell you a story.***

Jesus was born in a town called **Bethlehem**. At about the time He was born, **a big star** appeared in the sky. In a country a long long way away from Bethlehem, there were **some wise men**. Every night these wise men peered up in to the sky to see what they could see! One night they were looking up into the sky and they saw ... an **enormous star**. It was really bright, and BIG! “Wow!” said one of the use men. “This means that there is a new king born somewhere. I wonder where he was born?”

**The wise men** looked at each other. One of the wise men said, “I have no idea where this king was born. How do we find out where he was born?”

“I know” said another of the wise men. “Let’s follow the star and see where it takes us!”

“That is crazy” said another side man. “We could end up travelling for years, and still not find the king. And it could be scary”

“I think it is worth following the star” said the first wise man. “This star is HUGE. It must mean that there is a great king has been born. I’m going to follow the star. Who is coming with me?”

In the end they all agreed. Some of their friends thought they are mad. “Fancy .... following a star with no idea where they were going. These men are crazy, not wise!”

**So the three wise** men got some food together, climbed onto their camels and off they went. They followed the **star**. When the star turned left, they turned left. When the star turned right, they turned right. When the star when straight, they went straight. On on on they went. The journey was very long, dusty and hot! The journey took the wise men a long time. But the star led the wise men to a county called Israel. God’s people, called the Jews, lived in Israel. The wise men had never been to Israel before. The wise men were not sure where to go.

The wise men asked each other, “Where do we find a king who has just been born?”

“I know” said one of the wise men. “**We will go and find a palace**. We will find a king in a palace.” So they asked someone where the palace was. Now they knew where the palace was. The wisemen set off to find the palace. The wise men were very excited. The wise men were going to see this special king! ... To be continued!

... Next week Marilyn will tell us what happens when the wise men find the palace.

So .... how do you think God talked to the wise men? Were the wise men listening?

Ideas..... How did God talk to the wise men? ... Did God send an **angel**? - No. Did they have a **dream**? - No.

So how did God talk to them?

God talked to the wise men through something that happened to them. The wise men saw a **..... ???..... star**. God helped them to work out that this star was important. Why was it important? .....???..... Because the star showed the wise men that a King was born. God's son. God used something fairly ordinary to get the attention of the wise men. The wise men had to **listen though**! God made the star big and bright, so that the wise men did not miss it! The wise men were used to looking at stars. If the star was not big and bright, the wise men might have not seen it among all the other stars. And they would not have seen King Jesus!

God can talk to us through what happens to us. Not just big things that happen, but small things as well.

Perhaps you see a beautiful flower, or an amazing sunset. God might be telling you what an amazing God He is to make all that, and that God loves you so much that the sunset or the flower are for you to look at and say "Thank you" to God.

Perhaps you have been asking God to help you to be more helpful? Well .... look out for opportunities. If someone drops something, if you can, pick it up. If someone needs help with putting on their coat, if you can, give them some help. That is God answering your prayer. Listen to Him!

Perhaps you have been asking God to help you trust Him more? When something a bit unusual happens, or something a bit scary happens, or something you are not used to happens, ... you can trust God more. Simply pray, "Jesus help me to trust you." God has been talking to you. He really does want you to learn from this and trust Him more. So listen to Him!

So ... One of the ways that God talks to us is through the ordinary things that are happening around us. So we need to watch out for the ordinary things that can be God saying something very simple to us, and LISTEN!

**Pray:** Dear God, thank you that you want to talk to us. Help us to listen to you. Help us to hear you in the ordinary things that happen to us every day. In Jesus name. Amen