

**Christian Education News for January 2012, HAPPY NEW YEAR!
YOUTH SUNDAY**

**February 5, 2012 marks the
XLVI SUPER BOWL**

It also marks the...

The FELC SOUPER BOWL V

**Your meal includes your pick of six homemade soups,
to warm you up for the big game,**

Vegetable Beef Soup Chicken Noodle Soup

Chili White Chicken Chili

Corn Chowder Winter Vegetable

A Sandwich to go with your soup,

Shredded Chicken ~ Hot Dog

And last but not least your just dessert.

Cake ~ Cookies ~ Pie

Eat-in, Carry-out or Delivery for Shut-ins!

Call 419-738-7213 ahead of time for deliveries.

Beverages provided for eat-ins

The Cost

Adults.....	\$6.50
Children 12 and under.....	\$4.00
Children 2 and under.....	Free
Pint of Soup.....	\$4.00
Whole Homemade Pie.....	\$8.00

Proceeds benefit the Youth Fund and we thank you ahead of time for your support!

January Birthdays

Makenzie Klock 1-20-94

Paige McCullough 1-21-02

Morgan Fisher 1-25-98

Lilly McPeck 1-28-03

If you see anyone of these youth, would you please wish them a Happy Birthday or give them the gift of a prayer for their special day.

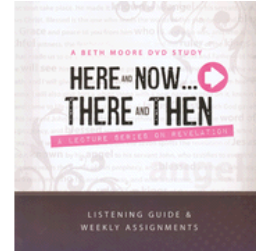
Whoops, I missed Mr. Noah Yocum's birthday last month. Please feel free to correct me when I miss your child's birthday, better yet, give me a call to add your child to the list. 419-738-7213

A BIG THANK-YOU to all who donated to the Youth Cookie Fundraiser, I heard many compliments this year, I hope everyone that purchased a container enjoyed them to the last crumb.

Woman of the Word

We will be back on Tuesday, January 24, 2012 at 6:00pm in the Parlor with Beth Moore's study, Here and Now...There and Then, an 11-session lecture series on the book of Revelation. Beth presents many points of view, allowing women to decide for themselves when the interpretation varies among scholars. She teaches that God is as specific about what He does reveal as He is about what He does not reveal. The Listening Guide is a book for note taking during the teaching sessions. It also has one homework assignment for each week.

This study has very good reviews by the ladies who have already taken it including my sister's Church in Hilliard, Ohio.



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YOU ARE INVITED TO PIZZA AND A MOVIE

Friday, February 10, 2012

6:00 in the Fellowship Hall for Pizza,  
Fellowship and the Movie

## “Courageous”

Starring Alex Kendrick, Ken Bevel,  
Kevin Downes & Ben Davies

Rated PG13 for Violence

RSVP for ordering of Pizza

Nursery provided upon request

**The following are two of the many 5 star reviews I read on the movie Courageous.**

1] I had the privilege of viewing "Courageous" this afternoon with my wife and two very gracious friends who had secured tickets for the initial showing in our city. I am a police officer, having logged on 23 years with the Carlsbad Police Department (NM), so I was looking forward to this movie with great anticipation.

Our friends asked me to comment on the authenticity of the daily law enforcement duties that would be depicted in this film. I can say the Kendrick brothers really did their homework; the daily operations were very well done and true to the life of the law enforcement officer.

"Honor begins at home" is the main message of this story focusing on the duties we fathers have in raising our children. God expects we fathers to be "leaders" in our homes. Seeing there is a serious problem in this country of fatherless homes, the writers address this issue very well.

The action is pure adrenaline; I was with these men every step of the way. There is also tragedy that will tear your heart. Yes, I shed some tears.

I commend the Kendrick brothers, all the fine actors and actresses, and the production crew for again creating a quality dynamic movie that will touch and convict hearts. I know that I was convicted about being apathetic in a few areas of my life. Everyone please view this movie, and may God bless you

2] As a single mom, I was a little afraid that a movie that encourages fathers towards faithfulness would be discouraging to me. I was afraid that it might poke where I hurt.

Several of my teens and I watched Courageous during its opening weekend. I laughed really hard; I cried too. I was pleased that the plot had some unexpected twists. I felt the characterization was believable. Some of the one-on-one violence (punching) was a little much for my stomach, but certainly seemed to fit the plot; it wasn't gratuitous. The next morning it suddenly occurred to me that I noticed not one swear word. Not one. (Thanks, Sherwood Films!!)

Over the last 14 months much has sapped me of strength and courage, sadly, all of it coming from within the Christian community. By contrast, this movie gave me renewed strength and courage for the task before me as a single mom.

In my family, both Fireproof and Courageous are now mandatory viewing for everyone age 12 and up. Jesus used stories to engage hearts and minds to turn people towards Himself. Courageous, likewise uses a story to engage hearts and minds to turn people towards Christ and toward their God-given responsibilities as parents. I highly recommend it.

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### **Question of the Month**

[www.GotQuestions.org](http://www.GotQuestions.org)

Thought it would be interesting to know what Epiphany is all about and to learn a bit more about the Magi and how they fit into God's plan.

#### **Question: "What is Epiphany / Three Kings' Day and should Christians celebrate it?"**

**Answer:** Epiphany is an ancient church festival celebrating the magi's visit to the Christ Child (Matthew 2:1-12). It is kept on January 6. Epiphany is also called "Three Kings' Day" and "Twelfth Day"—the latter name because January 6 is twelve days after Christmas; the eve of Epiphany is called "Twelfth Night." It is celebrated mainly in Orthodox, Catholic, Anglican, and other liturgical churches.

The word epiphany means "manifestation" or "revelation." Thus, the holiday celebrates the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles, represented by the magi (see Simeon's prophecy in Luke 2:32). For some, Epiphany also commemorates the baptism of Jesus (Luke 3:21-22) and His turning water into wine (John 2:1-11)—manifestations of Christ's divinity to the world.

Many traditions surround Epiphany celebrations, which vary from culture to culture. Customs include the Star Singers (children dressed as kings and holding up a large star, singing carols from house to house); collecting money for charity; and the "plundering" and burning of Christmas trees. In the French Catholic culture, Epiphany marks the beginning of Mardi Gras, as "king cakes" are baked and served.

Other traditions include prayers (some offered to "Caspar," "Melchior," and "Balthazar," the traditional names of the magi); the blessing of holy water; the burning of "blessed" herbs; and the offering of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Should a Christian celebrate Epiphany? There is certainly nothing wrong with celebrating the different events of Christ's life, and a Christian is free to observe whatever day he wants, as long as he "does so to the Lord" (see Romans 14:4-6), having said that, we should be careful to avoid the superstitions and empty rituals (Isaiah 1:13-14) which have sprung up around many holidays, including Epiphany. Sprinkling "holy" water, for example, and burning "blessed" herbs are nothing but superstitious practices. And some customs directly conflict with scripture. For

instance, asking the magi to bless one's house conflicts with the Bible's clear teaching that we pray only to God Himself (Psalm 91:15; Matthew 6:6, 9; 1 Timothy 2:5).

Whatever holidays we choose to observe, the Lord should always be glorified in them; however our calendars are marked, the Bible must remain our only rule for faith and practice.

**Question: "What does the Bible say about the three wise men (Magi)?"**

**Answer:** We assume that there were three wise men because of the three gifts that were given: gold, incense, and myrrh (Matthew 2:11). However, the Bible does not say there were only three wise men. There could have been many more. Tradition says that there were three and that their names were Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, but since the Bible does not say, we have no way of knowing whether the tradition is accurate.

It is a common misconception that the wise men visited Jesus at the stable on the night of His birth. In fact, the wise men came days, months, or possibly even years later. That is why Matthew 2:11 says the wise men visited and worshiped Jesus in a house, not at the stable.

We know that the magi were wise men from "the East," most likely Persia, or modern-day Iran. This means the wise men traveled 800 to 900 miles to see the Christ child. Most likely, the magi knew of the writings of the prophet Daniel, who in time past had been the chief of the court seers in Persia. Daniel 9:24-27 includes a prophecy which gives a timeline for the birth of the Messiah. Also, the magi may have been aware of the prophecy of Balaam (who was from the town of Pethor on the Euphrates River near Persia) in Numbers 24:17. Balaam's prophecy specifically mentions a "star coming out of Jacob."

The wise men were guided to look for the King of the Jews by a miraculous stellar event, the "Star of Bethlehem," which they called "His star" (Matthew 2:2). They consulted with King Herod in Jerusalem concerning the birth of Christ and were so directed to Bethlehem (Matthew 2:4-8). They followed God's guidance joyfully (Matthew 2:10). Their gifts for Jesus were costly, and they worshiped Him. God warned them in a dream against returning to Herod, so, in defiance of the king, they left Judea by another route (Matthew 2:12).

So, the magi were men who 1) read and believed God's Word, 2) sought Jesus, 3) recognized the worth of Christ, 4) humbled themselves to worship Jesus, and 5) obeyed God rather than man. They were truly wise men!

**Recommended Resource:** The Case for Christmas by Lee Strobel.

**May God Bless us in 2012  
and may we share our many  
Blessings with others,  
Robin Klock**