



# THE CHRISTMAS STAR OF 2020

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## **A Family Prayer & Discussion Guide**

**BY SOMER COLBERT**

Be honest, have you ever found yourself wishing to see miracles like you've read about in the Bible? I'll raise my hand here because I certainly have. Well, guess what?

In recent weeks, news outlets and social media platforms have been blowing up with the news of an incredible celestial event that is set to take place on December 21, 2020.

So what exactly is going to happen? According to NASA, for the first time in nearly 800 years, Jupiter and Saturn will closely align in the sky just after sunset and fuse into a single point of light.

The result? The Christmas Star! Yes, as in the same one seen by the wise men after the birth of Christ!

The last time this event occurred was the year 1226 A.D. and just to put this into perspective for you, we are talking the Middle Ages here. I know, right?!

With the holidays quickly approaching, the all too familiar fatigue of 2020 and the tasks on our to-do lists piling up, it would be so easy to skip over this incredible moment in time and even get so busy that we forget to go outside and glance at the sky much less stop to consider the significance of such an event.

The Christmas Star was made famous through the story of the birth of Christ, but let's be honest, as many times as we've read or listened to that story how often do we really pause to consider much about the star? Its purpose was to guide. Guide who? Wise men. Guide them where? To behold and worship the King of Kings. So, as we have an incredible opportunity to view this same star with our own eyes, why would we as His followers do anything less than draw near to our Savior and worship Him as the wise men did?

The more I read about it, the more I am taken back by its timing. After such a difficult year, I am convinced this celestial event is far from coincidental. I believe this star is an unmistakable

reminder of where our Hope is truly found. Moreover, I feel an immense need to call families of believer's far and wide to pause on this special night and reflect. Reflect, and perhaps remind our hearts of the hope we have because of Jesus.

“When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.” Matthew 2:10 ESV

I'd like to invite you to join our family on December 21st as we set aside the evening to rejoice, reflect and honor the Lord through prayer, contemplation and thanksgiving.

I have created a guide to help you lead your family through this special time complete with checklists, scripture references, discussion points and moments of guided prayer. Make it your own, get creative and enjoy this time of making memories your family won't soon forget!

## **Get Ready Checklist:**

- Choose your location facing Southwest just after sunset with a clear view of the sky away from trees, tall buildings, etc.
- Sky View Lite app - can be downloaded for free to any smart device and used as a helpful tool in finding the exact location of the Christmas star
- Binoculars or telescope (if you have them but not necessary, the star will be easy to spot)
- Bible
- Laptop/iPad/Phone for videos
- Blankets/Cold weather clothing or bonfire
- Warm meal or favorite treats such as hot chocolate, chili or soup
- Remove all distractions

## 1. What's going on?

Talk about what is happening in the sky – [Watch this video](#) to learn more about the Christmas Star from NASA Astrophysicist Amber Straughn.

Read Genesis 1:1, 14-19 and Psalm 8:3-4.

Talk about how God is the one who places the stars and the planets in the sky.

If he can order the stars and planets, He is more than capable of ordering our lives.

## 2. Read the account of the Christmas star in Matthew 2:1-15

Do you see any similarities between the challenges the people faced in Matthew 2 and the challenges of 2020? (age appropriate)

(There was political unrest, the Jews were looking to the coming of a Messiah they believed would rescue them from their physical dangers, the people were afraid, unsettled, uncertain)

The Message translation of verse 11 says, “overcome, they kneeled and worshipped Him”

We've been overcome by many things this year: fear, grief, uncertainty – but how many of us can honestly say we've been overcome with joy?

What is something you have felt overcome with in 2020? (This may seem heavy for children but we all know our children have felt the weight of this year. Instead of avoiding the discussion, let's teach our children how to talk about difficulties in a healthy way (age appropriate, of course) and lead by example in surrendering those difficulties to the Lord through our trust in Him)

Say a prayer asking God to restore to your joy, faith, trust – anything you feel you've lost after walking through this difficult year

Listen to [“O Holy Night”](#) while looking into the sky, consider the words as you listen and talk about what phrase(s) speak to you.

### **3. Give thanks:**

I love the way verse 10 in The Message translation says, “They could hardly contain themselves”. The wise men were absolutely thrilled they had found Jesus. The loss of our normal rhythms and creature comforts this year could be our greatest blessing if we realize and come back to a place of excitement that we have a Savior who died for us and lives within us.

Verse 11b in the CSB Bible says the wise men “opened their treasures and presented him with gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh.

What treasure does Jesus want from us? (Our hearts)

Encourage each family member to offer at least one thing they are thankful to God for

(Examples might be your family, home, jobs, plenty of food, the opportunity to learn, the freedom to worship God, friendships etc. All of these things seem less cliché during a year like 2020 where we may have lost some things we take for granted)

#### **Thank God for:**

- Lessons learned through experiencing hard things – Read James 1:2
- His sovereignty
- His love
- Salvation

### **4. Pray over your family**

- Cover each family member in prayer by name
- Ask God for salvation of any loved ones not yet surrendered
- Cover your home in prayer – consider a prayer walk in or around your home

## **5. Commit your family to the Lord in 2021- God is worthy of our trust as we go into a new year**

“God – his way is perfect; the word of the Lord is pure. He is a shield to all who take refuge in him. For who is God besides the Lord? And who is a rock? Only our God. God- he clothes me with strength and makes my way perfect.” Psalm 18:30-32 (CSB)

Discuss how your family honor and serve the Lord more in the coming year

“Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.” Phil 4:13

Listen to [“The Blessing”](#).

## **SOMER COLBERT**

Somer Colbert is a Jesus follower and wears many hats of wife, mom (biological, adoptive and mentor), writer, speaker, worship leader and adoption advocate. She is an introverted extrovert who loves hot tea, British movies and deep conversations with her favorite people. Somer is the founder of Ahavah in our Hearts Ministry, which began as a blog for family and friends to follow an adoption journey and has now grown into a ministry that seeks to encourage others to grow in Christ and thrive in their God-appointed roles in their families, communities and ministries.

Come hang out with Somer on social media @somercolbert on Facebook and Instagram and [check out her blog!](#)