



The Director: Joel

Matthew 2:1-2 9-11, Matthew 5:14-16, 1 Thessalonians 2:8-12, Daniel 12:3, John 8:12, 1 Peter 1:19, 1 Peter 2:9, 2 Corinthians 4:6

- 1. The star in the Christmas story fulfilled Old Testament prophecy, but it was much more. It shone brightly in a dark setting and pointed people to the Savior. "Joel" our director from the video, did just what the Christmas star is meant to do. He did what he could to put everything and everybody in the story in their places so that it caused the focus to shine on the Savior in a way that everybody saw Jesus. That's what good directors do: make sure the light shines on the true star, the one at the center of the story. Jesus, and no other, is the center of the glory of Christmas. As you have grown in faith, how has Jesus moved more and more to the center of your production?*
- 2. In the moments before the performance begins, every little thing that could go wrong seems to go wrong. Finally the director says "it's time" and Joel leaves the building. He steps outside, he steps off the stage and says he does it this way every year because it's time for God to do what God does. Are we, he asks, willing to step aside and let God do what God does?*

Are we willing to kneel at the manger, and trust that this is the way God chose to save us all? When was the last time we knelt at the manger and trusted? Could it be time for a return trip?

3. *Who have been the directors in your faith walk, those who prepared you and led you to kneel at the manger? Perhaps like Joel, our director in the video, they never saw the production your life turned out to be. They've stepped aside and allowed God to do what God has done with you. They led you to the water where by faith you drank long and well from the life-giving river of grace. Say a prayer of thanks, right now, for the directors **in** your life who introduced you to the Director **of** your life, this Jesus born in Bethlehem on a starry, starry night long ago. Perhaps as you thank others, someone is saying a prayer of thanks for you. In the Kingdom, what goes around comes around. If you wish, name some of your directors.*

4. *The star in this story did not stop shining and guiding the wise men in verse 2. The star continued shining all the way until they find him (Matthew 2:9-11). Like the star, we who bear the light of Christ's love are in it for the long haul. There is no statute of limitations on sharing God's love. The glory of Christmas is that we get to be "His" star, illuminating a very dark world, as long as it takes for those who need to encounter Jesus to do so. God often does what God does when we make our lives available to burn brightly for God's glory and as a result draw people to the One whom we worship, love, adore, and follow as Savior and Lord. How bright is your star shining this Christmas?*

5. *Ephesians 5:8 declares: "For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light." The source of our light, our power plant? "Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." – John 8:12.*

This Christmas may our lives shine brightly and consistently until all whom we have the privilege to guide and direct are able to find themselves in the presence of the One who came to save us: Christ Jesus. It's time.