

**The Night Before Christmas:
Jerusalem, Matthew 2:1-12**
December 17, 2023



1. Are you more of a control freak or a laissez-faire individual who is willing to let things happen and allow people to do what they want?

2. If you are a control freak, how and why do you think you developed it as a personality trait?

3. Read Matthew 2:1 - 3
The Magi went to Herod, yet verse 3 says that all Jerusalem was as upset as he was. Who told all of Jerusalem about the Magi, and how does controlling the narrative benefit the person trying to retain control over other people?

4. Read Matthew 2:4 - 8
List the other ways Herod tried to control the news about the birth of the Messiah.

5. Read 2 Peter 1:3 - 8
What's the difference between having self-control and being a control freak? Why is one a good trait and the other not?
In the world today, are more people interested in exhibiting self-control or in controlling the actions of someone else? Why does it seem easier or more beneficial to exert control over other people rather than exhibit self-control?

6. Read James 4: 13 - 16, Proverbs 3: 5- 6
Describe the actions and attitudes in James and compare them to the attitude encouraged in Proverbs.

7. Read Isaiah 26:3
What gives perfect peace and why is it so hard to put into practice?

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