



Scripture

Matthew 2:1-18

Ice Breaker

1. What is your favourite Christmas movie? Why?
2. What are your favourite traditions related to Christmas?

Going Deeper

1. Read Matthew 2:1-12
2. Why was it important that Jesus was born in Bethlehem?
3. The Magi were pagan astrologers. Typically pagans did not care about Judaism, and the Israelites wanted nothing to do with them. Why would they leave everything in order to follow a star that would lead to the king of the Jews?
4. What is the Magi's response to Jesus when they see him? How is that similar to the response that Christians make to Jesus? How does it differ?
5. What do the star, the Magi, the gifts, the homage, the hostility, and the prophecy teach us about the significance of Jesus?
6. In your journey toward God, how are you like the Magi? How are you, unlike them?
7. Read Matthew 2:13-18
8. How old do you think Jesus is in this story? Why?
9. Based on Herod's response to the news of the coming Messiah, what kind of person do you think he was? What does his response say about his view of the Messiah?
10. On Sunday, Rob spoke about Herod feeling threatened by the baby Jesus. Herod, the king, felt threatened by a baby born to poor parents. Based on Herod's status, his fear would seem irrational. What sort of things do you feel threatened by? Are there any that, when you stop and think about them, may not make much sense?
11. When, like Herod, have you felt threatened by Jesus' Kingship? How do you react? What do you think would be a better response to when we feel threatened?
12. What is Matthew's point in emphasizing God's watchfulness over Jesus? In fulfillment of Hosea and Jeremiah's prophecies (v. 17-18, 23)?
13. What is something that you take from this story that you can apply to your life?