**Life Group Discussion Guide**

Matthew: The King and His Kingdom

*The King is on the Scene!*

September 26, 2021

**Reading** Matthew 2:1-12

**Intro:**

1. Are you familiar with the Butterfly Effect? What are some small things in your life that made a huge difference?

2. Think back of a time when you felt joy, describe that time. Has your faith ever caused this kind of joy?

3. Is it wrong to pursue joy?

**Read Matt 2:1-2. Pray and answer the following questions**:

1. What is surprising to you about the wise men’s involvement in God’s plan for Jesus’ Birth? What do you think motivated the wise men to journey so far to investigate this baby?

2. What do the wise men reveal about Jesus in their question? (vs2)

3. Read Numbers 24:17. Based on this prophecy, what might the wise men have thought about Jesus’ mission?

4. Read Isaiah 9:6-7. What titles are given for the Messiah in verse 6? What do these titles signify?

5. What evidence do you see in our world that people are searching for peace? How has Jesus been the “Prince of Peace” in your life recently?

**Read Matt 2:3-8, 16**

1. Herod was ruthless and responded to Jesus with hostility because his empire was threatened. The more we love controlling our own lives, the harder it is when we lose control. What is a natural reaction when your personal “empire” feels threatened?

2. What does Herod’s response say about his view of the Messiah? How did Jesus meet or contradict those expectations?

3. How did the religious leaders respond to Jesus? What is ironic about this reaction (vs5-6)?

4. Discuss as a group what it would look like for someone to know about Jesus, but not worship him. What would a modern-day Christian look like who is apathetic towards Jesus?

**Read Matt 2:9-12**

1. Why did the wise men “rejoice exceedingly with great joy”? (vs10).

2. What do the wise men teach us about worshipping Jesus, what were the aspects of their worship that we see in vs11?

3. Pastor Ryan says that joy comes from time being with Jesus. Do you find spending time with God easy or difficult?

4. Praying can sometimes fall into a repetitive, and eventually boring, routine. Have you ever experienced this? Is there anything that has reinvigorated your prayer life?

EXERCISE: Pastor Ryan challenged you to pray a Psalm a day, by reading it line by line, and using the language as an idea generator and springboard for any topics that come to mind. Turn to Psalm 23 and practice this as a group. Go around in a circle, each member reads a line and then says a prayer on whatever came to their mind.

POST-EXERCISE. How did it go? What did you learn or experience? Will you do this

7-day challenge?