

# Responding to Christmas

## Matthew 2

*Focus: to present Jesus as Christ and King in fulfillment of the OT by the protection of God and... to call us to worship Him (like the magi) and not be a rival (like Herod)*

### RESOURCES:

here are 2 links that may be useful in your preparation for this discussion:

<http://bible.org/seriespage/visit-wise-men-matthew-21-12>

and

<http://bible.org/seriespage/slaughter-innocents-matthew-213-23>



### 2016 Annual Priority:

*To establish a greater devotion to believing and being shaped by the three great loves embedded in our mission statement's goal of becoming a mature and ministering worshiper of God; love for God, love for the church, and love of neighbor.*

### Discussion:

- Read the entire passage. What do the Magi teach us in this passage? what do you know about who they were? why is it significant that God would bring them to worship the Christ?
- List all the insights you can about Herod in this passage. How is he the anti-example, one whose example is NOT to be followed?
- In what ways can we fuel our "inner Herod" that positions us as rivals to Christ?

Pick one of the follow 2 questions:

- 1) Discuss the fulfilled prophecies in the passage. Read each passage and the corresponding OT reference (use your cross-references in your Bibles). What do these passages reveal to us about who Christ is to be? (see the resources for additional insights)
- 2) Make a list of how God protects the Christ-child throughout this passage. How does this affect your confidence in God?

### TAKEAWAY:

- Discuss what it means for you to worship Christ with Joy like the magi and NOT set yourself up as a rival, like Herod. What is your step of Joseph-like obedience in light of these thoughts?