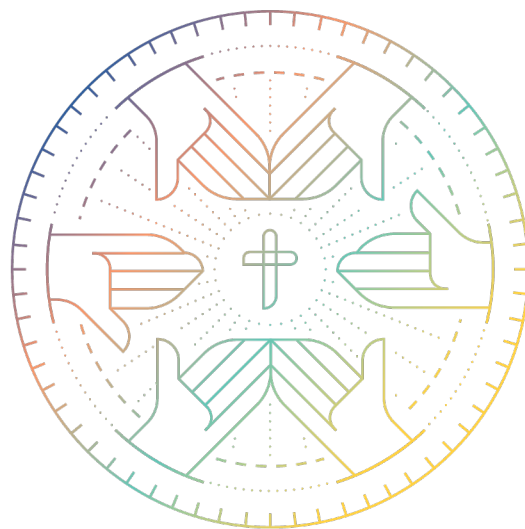


# Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



## SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Beyond Bethlehem: “Opposition, Indifference, or Worship?”  
Scripture Focus: Matthew 2:1-12

## ICEBREAKER

What is one Christmas tradition you've always loved—and why does it matter to you?

OR

When you think about Christmas, do you tend to approach it more thoughtfully, emotionally, or practically?

## INTRODUCTION

Christmas is more than a familiar story—it is a revealing moment. Matthew shows us that when Jesus enters the world, people respond in very different ways. Some feel threatened, some remain indifferent, and some fall down in worship.

## INTO THE WORD

**Read Matthew 2:1–3, 2:7–8, and 2:16–18.** Why did the birth of Jesus feel threatening to Herod? What does Herod's response reveal about where he found his security and power? Where can Jesus feel threatening to us today?

**Read Matthew 2:4–6, Micah 5:2, and Micah 5:4.** What stands out about the religious leaders' response to the news of the Messiah? Why didn't accurate knowledge lead to action? How can familiarity with Scripture lead to spiritual indifference?

**Read Matthew 2:1–2, Matthew 2:9–11, Numbers 24:17, and Daniel 9:25.** What stands out about the Magi's pursuit of Jesus? What risks or sacrifices did their journey require? How do humility, joy, and sacrifice show up in their worship? What does this teach us about true worship?

## EMBRACE AND EMBODY

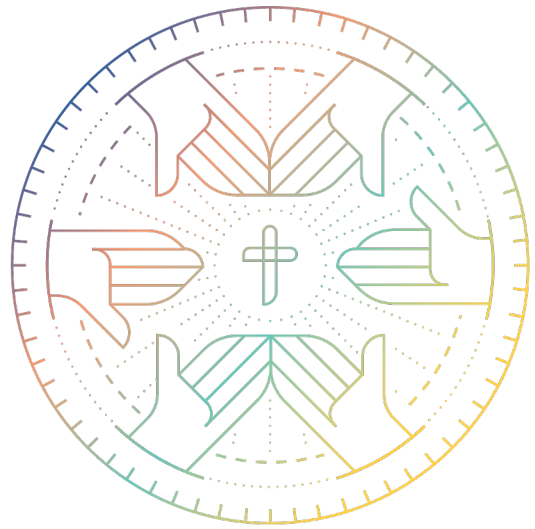
As a group, discuss the following:

- Which response do you most identify with right now: opposition, indifference, or worship?
- Where might Jesus be inviting you to surrender control this season?
- What would it look like to move one step closer to wholehearted worship?

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## TAKE YOUR NEXT RIGHT STEP

*(Prayerfully consider one of the following potential next steps)*

- **Seek God Daily:** Spend time journaling a prayer acknowledging your trust in God and surrendering fear, opposition or indifference to His authority.
- **Build Deep Relationships:** Share honestly with one trusted person about where you feel resistant or distracted in your faith and ask them to pray for you.
- **Worship God:** Practice embodied worship—kneel in prayer, sing aloud, or give thanks intentionally as an act of surrender.
- **Serve Others:** Look for one tangible way to reflect Christ's humility through service this week.
- **Live Generously:** Give sacrificially—your time, resources, or attention—as an offering of worship.
- **Make God Known:** Share with someone how Jesus has shaped your understanding of Christmas beyond tradition.

## CLOSING PRAYER

*King Jesus, we confess that at times we respond to You with fear, familiarity, or distraction rather than worship. Reveal where our hearts have grown guarded or indifferent and draw us back to You. Help us to grow in humility, rejoice always, and offer our lives as a sacrifice of worship. This Christmas, transform us as we surrender our desires for Yours. In Jesus' name, Amen!*