

**LifeGroup Study Sheet****Dec 6th– The Story of Hope – Matthew 2**

This guide is designed to help prepare you for your group discussion.

**Quick Review**

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

**Introduction**

Do you consider yourself someone who worries a lot? What causes you the most worry in your daily life?

**Digging In****Read Matthew 2:1-17**

**Question 1:** Herod was spiritually blind when it came to seeing God's plan of redemption because of his desire for his own plans and purposes. Think about situation in the past, where your own plans and desires distracted you from following God's greater will?

**Question 2:** King Herod knew that a new King of Jerusalem was coming, and he started to worry – he completely panicked. He tried everything he could to stop it from happening (**Matt 2:7-8,13,16**). Every single human heart has a throne. And on that throne sits something or someone. Every single day, each of our hearts comes to that throne as an obedient slave. (**Romans 6:16**) Pastor Jeff asked the question, "who sits on the throne of your life? Who calls the shots?"

**Question 3:** Pastor Jeff gave the illustration of riding a tandem bicycle. Both people on the bike are providing effort – but only the person in the front of the bike determines the direction. The question becomes, how do I identify what is on the throne of my life?

The theologian John Calvin teaches that our hearts often times love good things too much. We make good things into God things.

What replacement god has your ear? What helps you make decisions? What causes you to lose your temper? Makes you fear? Drives you into despair when you don't have it?

**Question 4: Read Luke 9:23.** In order for us to put Jesus on the throne of our lives, Jesus gives us three things put Him back where He belongs:

1. Deny yourself
2. Take up your cross
3. Follow me

Talk about what some of things look like. What do some of these things mean in your life? Based on what you gradually allow to sit on the throne on your life, how do you apply what Jesus says?

**Read Luke 9:25** – What are the scary realities of NOT following what Jesus said?

### Taking it Home

**Read Psalm 42:5**

*Why, my soul, are you downcast?  
Why so disturbed within me?  
Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him,  
My Savior and my God.*

What are you angry about? What is making you fear? What is making you downcast or sad? Think about how all of that God focuses back to hope. Hope IN HIM.

HOPE is NOT wishful thinking – HOPE IS a confident expectation.

### Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

**Adoration** – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

**Confession** – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

**Thanksgiving** – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

**Supplication** – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?