

## Through Herod's Eyes

**Icebreaker Question:** Have you ever felt threatened by change—even if you knew it might be good? What made it difficult?

Read Matthew 2:1–18 together and listen for contrasts in the passage (fear vs. joy, deception vs. worship, power vs. humility).

### Group Discussion

1. Understanding Herod's Response: King Herod the Great is described as "disturbed" when he hears about Jesus' birth.
  - Why do you think the birth of Jesus felt threatening to Herod?
  - What was Herod most afraid of losing?
  - How did his position, power, and insecurity shape his response?
2. Fear vs. Worship: The Magi respond very differently than Herod.
  - What words describe the Magi's reaction when they find Jesus?
  - How does their posture compare to Herod's?
  - Why do you think joy often accompanies surrender, while fear accompanies control?
3. Seeing Ourselves in the Story :Herod's story is uncomfortable because it's relatable.
  - In what areas of life do people today struggle to let Christ be King?
  - What "thrones" do we tend to protect—comfort, reputation, control, certainty?
  - How can fear subtly disguise itself as wisdom, caution, or responsibility?
4. A Warning and an Invitation: Herod outwardly claims he wants to worship Jesus—but his actions reveal otherwise.
  - Why is it dangerous to say the right things about Jesus while resisting Him inwardly?
  - How can we tell the difference between genuine worship and religious performance?
  - What does true surrender look like in everyday life?

### Application (Personal Reflection)

- Where might Jesus be inviting me to release control?
- What fear do I need to name honestly before God?
- What step of obedience or surrender could I take this week?