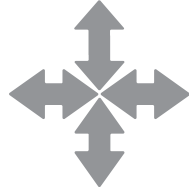




## GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY: the week of March 1st

This study is designed to help your community group grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. There are three dimensions to following Jesus.



**UP:** growing in relationship with God

**IN:** growing in relationship with other followers of Jesus

**OUT:** growing in relationship with the world around us  
as we join God in God's mission.

Sermon: Born and Raised (Matthew 2:1-13)

*Key Verse:*

*When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."  
Matthew 2:13*

### **Getting Started:**

Where were you born and raised? Spend some time learning something new about the histories of those you share life with.

### **Time of Prayer:**

Together, begin with prayer. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide and guard your time together. Pray that you will understand what God is speaking to you through His holy Word. Pray that God will use this time to further direct your heart to Him, to walk in all His ways. Pray that Kingdom fruit be born through the time you have together – that your whole selves be further healed unto everlasting life in Christ and that this healing becomes healing for our community here in Colorado Springs and to the ends of the earth.

In other words, pray that your time together results in the further inbreaking of the Kingdom of Heaven, which heals our hearts and brings salvation ever closer to the yet-believing community around us as we move toward our neighbors in the love and strength of Christ.

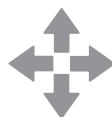


## UP: Connect with God through Spending Time in His Word

Together as a group, read aloud Matthew 2:1-13 .

Allow a few moments to silently reflect on what you heard. Underline or note any words or phrases that seem meaningful.

1. What appears to be the most significant Kingdom reality at play within this passage?
2. What do we learn about the environment in which Jesus was born? (physically, politically, socially)
3. We read in verse three that “when King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.” What was so disturbing? What was King Herod’s understanding regarding the Jewish anticipation of the Messiah? Why was “all Jerusalem” also disturbed?



## Out: Connect with the World Around Us (Join God in His Mission)

4. The gospels are filled with direct quotes from the Old Testament regarding the coming of the Messiah. Is this significant for our context today as it relates to proclaiming Christ to the watching world? Why or why not?
5. What would you like to learn more about regarding the historical reality of Jesus? What is a next step you can take toward this end?
6. For the watching world to “get it” that Jesus was a real historical person, are there any stereotypes of Christians held by the wider culture that Christians can strive to alter? What are they and how might we live differently to better reflect the love of Christ?



## IN: Connect with Each Other

Pastor Tim writes, “We think we need to clean up the mess before he arrives, throw paint over the crumbling parts of our lives so he can’t see them ... We fail to receive forgiveness because we don’t want Jesus to enter our mess ... (but) it’s the mess Jesus is after. Don’t try to clean up your mess for Jesus. Jesus came for the mess.”

What is your testimony of letting go of trying to clean yourself up and instead allowing Jesus to have full access into your life?

Pressing into the level of vulnerability that your group has built to date, close your time by sharing your highest joys and sorrows with one another. Celebrating that Jesus desires direct access into your mess, confess and rejoice together. Invite the Spirit to minister to your hearts. Ask God to give you the spiritual eyes to see how He desires to use you to be His witness in the coming days. Groups of 3 – 5 are ideal for this intimate, crucial time together.