



## LIFELINE Discussion Guide

Week of December 26, 2022

1. Read Matthew 2:1-18. Who was Herod the Great, and why was he so concerned about a newborn “King of the Jews”?
2. How did Herod try to manipulate this situation into his favor? How did his scheme involve the wise men from the East?
3. Herod and the religious leaders had the right “proximity” to Jesus. They also understood the “particulars” about Jesus. Yet they still rejected Him. What valuable lesson can we draw from this today?
4. Who were the “wise men” or “Magi”? What was their occupation? How is astrology still practiced in our day? Do you know someone who is into daily horoscopes? Has someone ever asked you about “your sign”?
5. Pastor Ryan briefly mentioned some of the mistakes people commonly make about the Christmas narrative— especially the arrival wise men. Was there only 3 wise men? Do we know their names? Were they at the manger? How old was Jesus when they finally arrived?
6. Scripture says that the Magi worshipped Jesus with reverence—and then presented Jesus with gifts. Why is this the right order? For Christians living today, why is it important that heartfelt worship precede our gifts of service?
7. There are only two legitimate responses to Jesus: REJECT or RECEIVE. How did Jesus Himself continue to emphasize this same truth in His ministry? See John 10:9-10; 14:6.