



## Sermon Discussion Guide

### **The Weary World Rejoices, Week 3: Herod Matthew 2:1-20 | December 13, 2020**

#### **Big Idea**

God is faithful to see us through difficult years, and celebrating Christmas is an act of hope.

#### **Opening Questions**

What is a Christmas movie you *must* watch every year? Why? What memories do you have of watching it?

#### **Key Scripture Questions**

1. In the sermon, we learned that Jesus was born in the shadow of a mountain built by and named after Herod. What might God be doing in the shadowed areas of your life right now?
2. The following quote from Richard Middleton was shared: *“Although I can appreciate the desire to “put Christ back into Christmas” in order to counter the commercialization of this sacred holiday, I want to suggest that we put Herod back into Christmas, and so counter the sentimentalized glitz with which the season has been papered over.”* Do you agree with this view? Why is it important to remember the entire account of Jesus’ birth?
3. Read **Matthew 2:13-14**. God’s response to Herod was to have Mary and Joseph flee. Why might this be a surprising response? What does this response remind us about God?
4. During the message, we learned that God’s track record is to conquer evil in unexpected ways. What are some other Biblical examples of this you can think of? Have you seen this played out in your personal life as well? Share, if you’re willing.
5. Read **Matthew 2:19-20**. In the end, Herod died, and Jesus lived. While other evils may be here now, Jesus is still alive today too. What might this say about how God is dealing with what we’re facing now?

#### **Concluding Questions**

The festivals demonstrate that God’s people celebrate when they see Him triumph in unexpected ways. This Christmas season, how can you celebrate what God did to defeat Herod? How can you celebrate what God is doing now?

#### **Application Questions**

1. What do you think the Holy Spirit may be saying to you through this sermon and our discussion?
2. What is something God wants you to do now?
3. Beyond prayer for each other, is there a way we can help each other apply what God is showing us?

#### **Prayer Time**

“Dear Heavenly Father, we are grateful to know that any evil we may face has ultimately been conquered by You. Please help us approach this season of celebration with a renewed hope in You. Amen.”