

Week 1 - "Best Present Ever"

Pastor Kyle Plew

Group Discussion Guide

HOW'S YOUR HEART?

What has bruised or beat up your heart this year?

READ MATT. 2:1-3 (NIV) and MATT. 2:7-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." ⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

RESPOND

1. Herod had deception and vengeance in his heart. This caused him to miss the worship of Jesus and see it as a threat. Is there anything you are believing about Jesus that might not be true?
2. Herod did not trust anyone. He even designed palaces to protect himself. Are there people you can trust to hold what's in your heart? Who are those people?

3. Herod was full of his own ego and anger. When he was challenged he acted out. When you get bumped or life begins to frustrate you, what comes out?
4. Our outward actions come from a root cause. What are you currently filling your heart and mind with?

REALITY

Jesus is the best protector of our hearts.

DO THE STUFF: When You Need to Fill Your Heart with the Good Stuff

Say these words: *Jesus please examine my heart.*

Think this thought: *Reveal to me what is going on inside of it and help me trust you more.*

Pray this verse: *"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up"* (Gal. 6:9).