

## Who is on the Throne?

### Matthew 2

**Ice Breaker:** Describe a time when you sensed God calling you to give up control of something – but you didn't want to. What were you holding onto? Why was it hard to let go of control?

**BIG IDEA:** Despite all of the hostile opposition against baby Jesus, God demonstrates that His Kingdom and His throne will be established – no matter what pseudo-king tries to sabotage it. According to Matthew 2, Christmas is the story of God's Kingdom breaking in and overruling every false power that would resist His reign.

#### **Digging Deeper:**

- 1) Read Matthew 2:1-8. Based on the historical background that Pastor Joshua shared about Herod, why do you think he and the religious leaders were so “disturbed” by the news of the one who was about to be born ‘king of the Jews?’
- 2) Based on Matthew 2:13 – what was Herod's objective for sending the Magi to Bethlehem to look for the baby? What does this tell us about Herod's commitment to hold onto his throne?
- 3) It's easy to vilify Herod for all of the terrible ways he maintained control of his throne. But what are some of the rationalizations or justifications that you're tempted to use to keep Jesus at bay – when He starts to “meddle” with some aspect of your life where you want to stay in control?
- 4) Read Matthew 2:9-20. Note some of the incredible ways that God protected Jesus in this story. What does this tell us about God's ability to establish His Kingdom – even in the face of earthly rulers like Herod? How should this truth inform the way we allow God's kingship to be established in our lives?
- 5) Is there any area of your life where Jesus is not on the throne? If so, what's keeping you from relinquishing the throne to Him? Spend some time confessing these things to one another – and then pray for Christ's kingship to be established fully in your lives.