

# GROWTH GROUPS

September 30, 2012

Matthew 1:18-2:23

## **Conversation Starter –**

When it comes to miracles, are you more skeptical or more ready to believe, and why?

## **Understanding –**

Matthew places the wonderful story of the birth of the Christ-child near the horrible account of the young boys being massacred by King Herod's army. In so doing, Matthew does not hide from the age old question, "How does a powerful and loving God allow evil to exist in the world?" Instead, Matthew uses that question to introduce the nature of the kingdom that Jesus is ushering in.

1. On Sunday morning, Pastor Clint pointed to the virgin birth saying that belief in a miracle like this means that one must also believe God is powerful enough to do all things? Do you agree? Why or why not?
2. Herod is an "imposter king" having no rightful authority to the throne of Israel. This is why he is threatened by the life of Jesus the true king. During the sermon it was said that we are all "imposter kings." How is this true? In what areas are you tempted to oppose God's authority in your life?
3. If Jesus delivered his full measure of justice on Herod, he would logically need to deal justly with all "imposter kings." Understanding this, God's allowance of evil in the world can be seen as a measure of grace. Read Revelation 19:11-16 and talk about how each day from this day until that day is evidence of God's grace.
4. Jesus' flight into Egypt also foreshadows the suffering he will endure at the cross. How does the knowledge of Jesus' sacrifice help you when you, yourself, face evil?

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