

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

SUMMARY

In this sermon, Pastor Jeremy explored the theme of joy amidst fear, as illustrated in the Christmas story through the Gospel of Matthew. The sermon highlighted the contrasting responses to Jesus' birth between King Herod and the Magi. Herod's fear led to control and destruction, while the Magi's search for the true King led to joy. We were challenged to move from fear to joy by surrendering control to Jesus, the true King, and embracing His kingdom of service, weakness, and love.

SHARE

As an icebreaker, share a funny or unusual fear you have or have heard of. How does this compare to more serious fears you might face in life?

READ

Read **Matthew 2:1-12** together as a group.

DISCUSS

Feel free to pick/choose what is most helpful for you. Remember the goal is to have rich, relational, authentic, Jesus-centered discussions.

1. What most stood out to you about the sermon?

2. How does Herod's reaction to Jesus' birth reflect the fears and insecurities we might experience in our own lives?

3. In Matthew 2:3, the word "disturbed" is translated from the Greek word "tarasso." What does this reveal about Herod's state of mind, and how does this deepen our understanding of his actions?

4. Pastor Jeremy shared about his own experience with impostor syndrome. How can we relate to this feeling in our own lives, and what steps can we take to overcome it?

5. The Magi responded to Jesus' birth with worship and joy. How can we emulate their response in our daily lives, especially when faced with fear or uncertainty?

6. Reflect on the two kingdoms presented in the sermon: Herod's kingdom of power and control versus Jesus' kingdom of service and surrender. How does this contrast challenge your current approach to life and faith?
7. How can we practically seek the true King, surrender control, and find joy in our everyday lives?

NEXT STEPS:
Consider one area of your life where you are holding onto control out of fear. This week, practice surrendering that area to Jesus through prayer and intentional action.

PRAY:
Spend time in prayer as a group, asking God to help each member move from fear to joy. Pray for the strength to surrender control and for the joy that comes from trusting in Jesus' love and authority.

CLOSING:
Thank everyone for their participation and encourage them to continue seeking Jesus, the true King, throughout the Christmas season and beyond.