



Town + Field

CHURCH

Sunday, March 28

Leader Discussion Guide

Matthew: The Not Normal Kingdom

LIFE CHECK-IN (10 minutes)

Take a few minutes to do an emotional health check-in with your Community, creating space for each person to answer the question below:

- Describe your week with three adjectives.

If the need arises, spend a few minutes praying for one another, asking God to meet needs and help each person carry what feels heavy right now.

OPENING PRAYER (5-7 minutes)

Spend a few minutes listening for what God might be up to in your group.

TEACHING SUMMARY (2-5 minutes)

This week Pastor Ryan continued our new sermon series that will take us through the book of Matthew called "The Not Normal Kingdom". Take a moment to read Matthew 2:1-12 as a group out loud.

- How would your group summarize the teaching in their own words?
- Or, what stood out to you from the teaching?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (20-30 minutes)

- How do you define worship? What qualifies as worship? What forms do you think it can take?
- "Herod and the religious leadership in Jerusalem were blinded to God's plan of redemption because of the lust for their own plans and purposes." In what ways can your own plans and desires distract you from following God's greater will?
- Ryan compared and contrasted Herod with the Magi. What stood out to you regarding this contrast?
 - In what ways or areas of your life do you walk in the way of Herod?
 - In what ways or areas of your life do you walk in the way of the Magi?

- What steps can you take to worship in the surrendered, sacrificial fashion of the Magi?

- Ryan also led us to reflect on the contrast between the kingdom of Herod and the kingdom of Jesus.

- Herod was a false king empowered by Rome. Jesus was the true King empowered by God. He didn't have a palace, guards, or even a room to be born in and yet He was the long awaited King. Why do you think God chose such a humble beginning for Jesus' birth?

OR,

- What stands out to you about this contrast?

PRAYER (5-7 minutes)

- Spend a few minutes praying for God's grace over each other, that we might become a people who make Jesus our Lord, and that there might be a sweeping renewal of the Holy Spirit in our city. Ask that God would stir up within us a desire to be with him in prayer and to serve him and our neighbor in love.
- Take a few minutes to quietly remember and pray for your three.

LEADER NOTES

These questions are a guide; feel free to use/exclude ones as people may have already answered the question or talked about the theme OR if your group takes a long time to tackle one particular theme it's ok to skip over questions in the interest of time/focus.