

## Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of December 4, 2016

Matthew 2:1-3

*These questions are to be used as a spring board for discussion.*

*Answers may or may not be found in the sermons.*

### **New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him.

### **New International Version (NIV)**

*After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> 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."*

*<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.*

### **Connection Questions:**

1. C.S. Lewis writes in his book, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, "God is not quite safe . . . but he's good." Discuss what you think he means by that statement.
  
2. Herod wanted to know where the Christ child was to be born. Discuss possible reasons why you think he was interested in the whereabouts of the Christ child.

3. You may have heard the saying, “God doesn’t call the equipped; God equips the called.” Discuss what you think this statement means for you.
  
4. Jesus’ message was a dangerous message; it challenged the message of the Jewish elite. Why did it?
  
5. Do you believe Jesus’ message is still dangerous? How is being called by God possibly different in Jesus’ day compared to today? How is it similar?
  
6. Share personal stories that you may have where you have taken risks because of your faith in God.
  
7. What could God’s dangerous message mean for you in how you deal with colleagues with whom you work? If you are a parent, what might it mean in how you raise your children?
  
8. Ask your group to have a silent moment of prayer. During this time, pray about things you could do as you prepare for Christmas that would get you out of your comfort zone because of your faith. After the prayer, share, if you feel comfortable, what God might be calling you to do.