

## Sermon Discussion Guide

The Promise of Christmas: Week 2

### Prayer

Take a few moments at the beginning and end of your group time to pray for each other and for your discussion in God's Word.

### Read

Isaiah 9:6-7; Matthew 2:1-12; Luke 1:30-33

### Main Ideas

This week, we examined the way in which Jesus fulfills the promise of a reigning king in Isaiah 9. In Christ, we see a King that subverts all expectations, leading not with force but with humility and wisdom. Jesus is the realization of the eternal kingdom that Isaiah foresees, one whose government has no end as He ushers in justice and righteousness wherever He reigns.

### Icebreaker Question

- What is your favorite Christmas song? When do you start listening to Christmas music?

### Discussion Questions

1. As modern Americans, how does this idea of Jesus' kingship sound to you? What cultural assumptions might we bring to this conversation?
2. As a group, read Isaiah 9:6-7.
  - a. What about Jesus' identity as king can we find in these verses?
  - b. According to these verses, what is the role of a good king? Where in Jesus' life do we see the fulfillment of these characteristics?
3. As a group, read Matt. 2:1-12.
  - a. What do you make of the connection in v. 6 between a ruler (someone with authority and power) and a shepherd (someone seen as less important or worthy)? What is this verse trying to teach us about the identity of Jesus?
  - b. What can the wise men teach us about the way in which we should respond to Jesus?
  - c. Why was Herod so troubled by Jesus? What about Jesus' kingship is challenging or unsettling for you?
4. How has accepting Christ as your King changed the way you live?