Applying God's Word

This Week's Passage: Matthew 2:1-12

Corresponding Sermon from King's Church: "Responding to Jesus"

Opening Discussion

- I. Read this week's passage together.
- 2. Share *your* immediate observations from this text. Was there anything shared in Sunday's sermon that stuck out to *you*?
- 3. In what ways were you able to see yourself in the sermon and in the text?

Going Deeper

I. Matthew directly speaks to the fulfillment of **Micah 5:2** in the birth of Jesus. Read its context together (**vv.1-6**) and discuss how Jesus specifically fulfills this prophecy. Why is this important to the gospel story?

2. Consider the way that Herod reacts to the wise men's news concerning Jesus. First, in verse 3, we are told he reacts with great concern, fearing that Jesus will be a to threat his own rule. Consider the ways in which Jesus's kingship threatens your own rule of *your* life. Are there instances in which you may hold Jesus off at a distance knowing that if you were to fully acknowledge him as your king, it may mean you have to submit to him in ways you are not already?

3.	We are surprised to find that it is the Gentile "wise men" from a foreign nation who are seeking Jesus and not the Jewish religious leaders. In this startling display of grace we see "those in need of a doctor" coming to Jesus. When they find Jesus, they bow down and worship him. What examples from the gospel of Matthew can you think of where the most unlikely people are drawn to Jesus and receive tenderness, love, grace, and forgiveness from him? What does this say about who he has come to save?
4.	What implications does this have for our lives as Jesus-followers? What does it mean for the way we interact with the world? What practical steps can we take be more involved in the lives of the lost and broken around us?
5.	As we see from the "wise men" the proper response to Jesus is joyful worship. What reasons do you have to worship Jesus? Try to think of specific ways that the Lord has transformed your life.
Prayer I. 2.	Points Worship the Lord together for all that he has done. Ask the Lord to cultivate in each of you a submission to his rule in your life.