

GETTING STARTED:

- 1) "What's all the commotion" or debates over nativity scenes at Christmas?
- 2) If you could do one thing to bring "peace on earth" what would it be?

MESSAGE BIG IDEA: Lights: The 1st Christmas "Star-Hater"**MAIN SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 2:1-18 Matthew 16:24-28**DISCUSSION**

- 1) Why did Herod issue his decree based on Matthew 2 and where did Brian Henry say this was pre-stated in the Old Testament?
- 2) According to Brian Henry's message, who was ultimately responsible for Herod's murderous activities?
Do you think this is still possible today? Revelation 12
- 3) In Brave New World, Mustapha Mond stated that the biggest challenge to world peace was "getting rid of those pesky Christians." How does that relate to the discussion and why are people so accepting of fallacy but fight so hard against truth?
- 4) When people are used to a certain lifestyle as Herod ruthlessly seemed to be, what does "Light" tend to do?

DIG DEEPER Revelation 12; Ephesians 6:10-14

- 1) Despite the history around Jesus birth and related political events, how do the passages in Revelation and Ephesians describe them? How does this either simplify or complicate things for your understanding of God's plans for salvation?
- 2) How can we avoid the harsh, narrow tendency of pointing out people as enemies of Jesus?
- 3) Why do you think people struggle with change? How do you feel when this happens in your life?

BRING IT HOME

- 1) What should our attitude be toward those who are so vocal about hating Jesus?
- 2) What have you given up (or still need to give up) for Jesus? How have you or do you count the costs?

ASK FOR GOD'S HELP

- 1) How can we pray that courage to embrace change can be ours as believers?
- 2) How can we pray for those who hate Jesus so much?