

**Wisdom's Response | The Three Wise Men**  
**A Manger Invitation Pt.1**

**Highs and Lows**

**Small Group Questions:**

1. Can your group name all the characters in a traditional nativity scene? Go.
2. Read Matthew 2:1-21. Matthew is contrasting the responses of the Magi, Herod, and the religious leaders. How would you describe the responses of each?
3. Read the key truths above. As a group, explain how we see each truth in the Biblical story. Which point challenges you most, why?
4. What would increasing your trust in Jesus cause you to lose?
5. Read the prayer at the end of the message. Have you prayed this prayer? When? Would you like to pray that prayer now? What's keeping you from praying that prayer?

**Close in prayer**

Nativity Scenes are just too **PRETTY**.

**Matthew 2:1-6** *After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem **2** 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." **3** When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. **4** When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. **5** "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: **6** " 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"*

**Matthew 2:7-12** *Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. **8** He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." **9** After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. **10** When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. **11** On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. **12** And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.*

The story emphasizes the **CONTRAST** of responses to Jesus.

**Matthew 2:13-18** *When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." 14 So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, 15 where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son." 16 When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. 17 Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: 18 "A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."*

**Matthew 2:19-23** *After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt 20 and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead." 21 So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, 23 and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.*

The wise men don't **BELONG**.

Those **LEAST** excited had the most to **LOSE**.

**QUESTION:** What would increasing your **TRUST** in Jesus cause you to **LOSE**?

**BOTTOM LINE:** The good news is only **GOOD** for those who are willing to **TRUST** it.

**Trusting Jesus:** Jesus, I believe that you are the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. I believe that you died sacrificially in my place and rose again in victory over death. And I now give my life to you, accepting you as my authority, my savior, and the one who guides my life. In all these ways, because you gave your life for me, I give you my trust. Amen.