

Seeking Love in the Savior | *Matthew 2:1-12*

Big Idea: *Everyone is seeking something, but love for Jesus is revealed by what we let lead our hearts and how we respond when we find Him.*

INTRO & ICEBREAKERS

- When you think about Christmas, what tends to shape your emotions most: excitement, pressure, nostalgia, stress, or something else?
- What's one thing that often ends up guiding your decisions around Christmastime?

SCRIPTURE & SERMON

- The Wise Men were clearly searching for something before they ever saw the star.
 - What does that say about human longing and how God meets us?
- In the sermon, Canaan talked about the difference between knowing truth and letting it shape our hearts. Why do you think that gap exists so often?
- The religious leaders knew where the Messiah would be born but didn't go, even after they heard.
 - What can keep people from moving toward Jesus even when they *know* the right answers?
- The Wise Men rejoiced, worshiped, and then left changed.
 - Which part of their response feels most challenging or most needed for you right now?

GIVING IT HANDLES

- What are some of the "stars" that tend to lead your life (achievement, comfort, approval, security, routine, etc.)?
- What would it look like this week to let Jesus—not those things—set the direction for your choices?
- The Wise Men went home "by another way." Where might God be inviting you to walk a different path in this season?

PRAY TOGETHER

- Awareness: Ask God to show what's currently your heart more than Him.
- Surrender: Ask Him humbly for a holy courage when expectations are disrupted.
- Allegiance: Ask that your love for Jesus would be reflected in changed direction, not just good intentions.