



**IMPACT COMMUNITIES**  
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Sequoia Impact Communities are a place to  
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To get plugged in email:

[impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org](mailto:impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org)

“A Baby King and a Rival King”  
Dec. 11, 2016

1. Take some time to share about how God has been working in and through you this past week using the B.L.E.S.S. habits questions.
  - How has the Gospel been a **Blessing** to you this week?
  - What are you hearing from God as you **Listen** to the Spirit & read God’s Word, the Bible?
  - Who have you had an opportunity to **Eat** with this week to build relationship?
  - Who has God led you to **Serve** this week?
  - In what ways have you been able to **Share** about Jesus this week?
2. What did you find helpful or challenging from the message?
3. King Herod was “deeply disturbed” by the birth of Jesus because of the threat it posed to his role as king. Share of a time that you have felt threatened by someone new coming on the scene who you feel might rival you in some way. (e.g. a more experienced employee joined your work team, a talented athlete joined your sports team, someone very intelligent joined your class, etc.)
4. Read Isaiah 9:6-7. What promises does this prophecy about the coming King (Jesus) make? In what ways do you question the goodness of King Jesus at times?
5. In the message it was said, “to believe in King Jesus means that you are not in charge of your life anymore.” What parts of your life put up defences at that thought? In what areas of your life do you say, “I will obey Jesus *if...*”? (e.g. a relationship, work/career, money, independence, achievement, etc)
6. In the message, you were encouraged to do 4 things this Christmas: See the King, bow to the King, trust the King, and expect good things from the King. Where are you at in this process? Which of these will come hardest for you this Christmas?
7. How will the story of Herod and the emphasis on baby Jesus as the Savior-King change how you think of, and explain the Christmas story in the future (to your children, or people who don’t really know the Christmas story yet)?



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## SEQUOIA NOTES

### Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message

#### “A Baby King and a Rival King”

With Aaron Richert  
Multiply Team Leader  
December 11, 2016



Matthew 2:1-18

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, <sup>2</sup> “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.”

<sup>3</sup> King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?”

<sup>5</sup> “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they said, “for this is what the prophet wrote:

<sup>6</sup> ‘And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.’ ”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!”

<sup>9</sup> After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! <sup>11</sup> They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

<sup>12</sup> When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.

<sup>13</sup> After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up! Flee to Egypt with the child and his mother,” the angel said. “Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”

<sup>14</sup> That night Joseph left for Egypt with the child and Mary, his mother, <sup>15</sup> and they stayed there until Herod’s death. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: “I called my Son out of Egypt.”

<sup>16</sup> Herod was furious when he realized that the wise men had outwitted him. He sent soldiers to kill all the boys in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under, based on the wise men’s report of the star’s first appearance. <sup>17</sup> Herod’s brutal action fulfilled what God had spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

<sup>18</sup> “A cry was heard in Ramah— weeping and great mourning. Rachel weeps for her children, refusing to be comforted, for they are dead.”

Jesus was born a **KING**. (v.2)

We all have **RIVAL KINGS** within us.

**Big Idea: Christmas is an ASSAULT on the RIVAL KINGS in our lives.**

The answer to Rival Kings: the **TRUE KING’S CROSS**

Colossians 2:13-15 “You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.”

#### This Christmas...

🎁 **SEE** the King.

🎁 **BOW** to the King.

🎁 **TRUST** the King.

🎁 **EXPECT GOOD THINGS** from the King.

*The Translation of the Bible Scriptures used in today’s 10:10 service are from the New Living Translation (NLT).*