

Weekend Message Questions
Advent, Week 5: An Honest Advent
Speaker: Aaron Alexander, Interim Lead Pastor
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CHECK-IN: As Christmas winds down, what's one word that honestly describes your heart right now: peaceful, tired, grateful, anxious, restless, hopeful, etc.? Why that word?

READ: Matthew 2:1–3

DISCUSS:

- Why do you think Matthew tells us that Herod – and all Jerusalem with him – was disturbed by the news of Jesus' birth?
- What kinds of things tend to disturb us when Jesus begins to challenge our plans, comfort, or control?

READ: Matthew 2:7–12

DISCUSS:

- Compare Herod and the Magi. What differences do you notice in how they respond to Jesus?
- Which response do you see more of in your own life right now: protecting your kingdom or seeking Jesus with surrender?

READ: Luke 1:46–47, 52 (Mary's Song)

DISCUSS:

- Mary calls God her Savior and celebrates that He brings down rulers and lifts the humble. Why is humility so central to experiencing God's work?
- Where might God be inviting you to let go of pride, comfort, or control in this season?

READ: Proverbs 3:5–6

DISCUSS:

- The message talked about how we “lean” and fall in the direction we’re leaning. What are you practically leaning on most right now (control, certainty, routine, others’ approval, God)?
- What’s one area where trusting God feels risky or uncomfortable?

APPLY

- Where do you sense Jesus interrupting your life right now – your plans, expectations, or sense of control?
- What would surrender look like this week in a tangible way (a prayer, a decision, a conversation, or obedience step)?
- Is there a “false kingdom” (comfort, success, image, control) that God may be gently exposing in your heart?

PRAYER TIME

Share prayer needs related to fear, control, surrender, or areas where Jesus is confronting or comforting you. Pray for hearts that respond like the Magi – willing to bow, release control, and rejoice with great joy. Ask God for the courage to let Jesus interrupt what needs transforming.

Need prayer outside of the group? [Submit a request here.](#)