

STUDY GUIDE: “Rescue”

Discussion Starters

1. Sing the “We Three Kings” song to yourself before continuing.
2. How many “Magi” visited Jesus? (This is a trick question)

Study

This study guide is designed to follow up the sermon “Rescue” at NOCC on 12/16/18. If you weren’t in worship at NOCC that Sunday, listen to the sermon on nocc.org or the NOCC app.

3. Read the second chapter of Matthew in preparation for this study.

To complete the next section of the study guide, you will need to use a Bible Dictionary. Remember, the words listed below are from the NASU, but the word you are trying to define is the Greek or Hebrew word translated by the NASU—NOT the English word. If you have any questions about how to use these tools, contact your group leader or one of the pastoral staff.

4. Define the following words or terms. Note for each of them how understanding the meaning and background of that word better helped you understand this passage, and why you think this word was chosen.

--“magi” (Matthew 2:1)

--“arrived” (Matthew 2:1)

--“worship” (Matthew 2:1)

--“angel” (Matthew 2:13)

5. What do we know about Herod, and why was he so concerned about Jesus’ birth?

6. What were “magi”?

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7. What is the significance of the magi coming into the house (2:11)?

8. Joseph seems to listen and obey the angel who appeared to him in a dream. How do you think he knew this was real, as opposed to just a dream?

9. Why did Herod order children two and under to be killed?

10. What is the play on words with the term “Nazarene” (2:23)?

Taking It Home

11. Clearly God rescued Jesus, Mary and Joseph from Herod. How does God rescue us today?

12. How important do you believe it is for the Church and for Christians to talk about this aspect of the Christmas story?

13. How can you communicate this meaning of Christmas to people you know who are not Christian?