



TELLING THE STORIES SERIES – KING HEROD AND THE THREE WISE MEN

PASTOR BRIAN COLES

DECEMBER 14, 2025

WORSHIP

Begin your group with a time of worship. If someone in your group can lead worship, invite them to lead two or three songs. Alternatively, consider using one or more of these songs from our Sunday morning worship time:

- **Behold** (*Phil Wickham*)
- **None Like You** (*Jesus Culture*)
- **I Believe** (*Charity Gayle*)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Matthew 2:1-20
- John 1:29
- 2 Corinthians 5:21
- Romans 8:1

OPENING PRAYER

Begin by asking God to open hearts and minds to receive His truth and to help group members apply what they learn to their daily lives.

Ice Breaker (5-10 min)

Share about a time when you received or gave a meaningful gift. What made it special?

KEY TAKEAWAYS (5 mins)

1. Worship Christ, the newborn King - The Wise Men followed the revelation they had and came to worship Jesus, bringing their treasures.
2. The Light shines in the darkness - Jesus came as light into a dark world, and darkness cannot overcome Him.
3. Jesus is either Lord of all or a rival to your throne - Like Herod, we must decide whether Jesus threatens our control or receives our worship.
4. Jesus came to take away our sin - The baby in the manger became the Lamb of God who removes our condemnation.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35-40 min)

Understanding the Text

1. The Wise Men's Journey: What does it reveal about the Wise Men that they traveled so far based on limited revelation (a star)? How does this challenge our faith when we have so much more revelation available to us?
2. Worship vs. Honor: Pastor Brian mentioned the difference between respect, honor, and worship. What distinguishes worship from the other two? Why is worship reserved for God alone?
3. Herod's Response: Why was Herod "disturbed" by news of Jesus' birth? What does his reaction reveal about his priorities and fears?

Personal Reflection

4. Two Responses: In what ways do you identify with the Wise Men? In what ways might you sometimes respond like Herod, seeing Jesus as a threat to your plans or control?
5. Supernatural Guidance: The Wise Men and Joseph both received supernatural guidance (the star, dreams, warnings). Have you ever experienced God's guidance in an unusual way? How did you respond?
6. Light in Darkness: Pastor Brian said, "There is a darkness in all of us; the light shines in the revelation of nature, in other people. We must choose to surrender to it." What does it mean to surrender to the light of Christ in practical terms?

Going Deeper

7. The Rage of Evil: Herod's murderous response shows the spiritual warfare surrounding Jesus' birth. Where do you see spiritual opposition to Christ and His kingdom in our world today?
8. Timing of Worship: The Wise Men worshiped first, then presented their gifts (v. 11). Why is this order significant? How does this apply to our giving and service?
9. Herod's Eternal Mistake: The sermon ended with Herod discovering "in the blink of an eye how wrong he was" after death. How should the reality of eternity and judgment affect how we live today?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION (10 Mins)

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Worship First

- Before asking God for anything in your prayer time, spend the first 5-10 minutes simply worshipping Him for who He is. Bring your "gifts" (requests, service, time) only after you've worshiped.

Option 2: Throne Examination

- Identify one area of your life where you may be treating Jesus as a "rival to your throne" rather than as Lord. What practical step can you take to surrender that area to Him?

Option 3: Share Your Story

- Like Brian and Tracy shared their testimony (mentioned at the end), share with someone this week how Jesus has changed your life. Who needs to hear your story?

Option 4: Follow the Light

- Pay attention this week to how God might be guiding you through Scripture, circumstances, other believers, or that sense in your spirit that something "doesn't sit right." Journal about what you sense God saying.

CLOSING PRAYER

Adoration: Worship Jesus as the newborn King, the Light of the World, and the Lamb of God

Confession: Ask God to reveal areas where you've resisted His lordship or treated Him as a rival

Thanksgiving: Thank God for the gift of Jesus and His sacrifice for our sins

Supplication: Pray for those who don't yet know Jesus, that they would respond like the Wise Men rather than Herod

- Ask for sensitivity to God's supernatural guidance in your life
- Pray for courage to share your testimony with others

Key Scripture Memory

John 1:29 - "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

Closing Thought

"Angels from the realm of Glory call angels, shepherds, sages, saints, and all nations to come and worship."

The invitation to worship Jesus extends to all people, across all time. How will you respond to the King?