

Forced to Flee

LifeGroup Lesson
December 3, 2017
Matthew 2:13-18

OPENING PRAYER:

O Lord in whom we trust: We confess that our fears have caused us to choose paths that lead us away from your promises. You have come to make your home in us, sending your Son to be Immanuel - God with us, God for us. Still, we turn away in fear. Forgive our resistance to your habitation among us. Soften our resistance by your Spirit, that we will welcome your holy presence, living in its light joyously, witnessing faithfully to the hope it brings, until the day when every eye will see, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to your everlasting glory.

-Sheldon Songe

BREAKING THE ICE:

- What did you agree/disagree with the LifeTalk this week?
- How far away do you live from your hometown? What would it be like for you if you had to move across the country tomorrow?

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:

Read Matthew 2:13-18.

- What jumps out at you in this scripture?
- Jesus is the Messiah and Savior, yet his parents had to flee to Egypt. His very life threatened the ruling classes of the day and he needed to leave. What does this scripture say to you about Jesus' presence? In your life?
- Mary & Joseph flee to Egypt. The family (Mary, Joseph & Jesus) become refugees. How do you read this passage in light of the world's circumstances? Does this passage affect/effect your political beliefs?
 - To think of the scripture as a political stance can be threatening. How does God's Word affect every aspect of your life?
- What would it be like for you if God asked you to relocate?
- Herod is threatened by Jesus' kingship. How does this fact threaten your life?

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

That is why the real problem of the Christian life comes where people do not usually look for it. It comes the very moment you wake up each morning. All your wishes and hopes for the day rush at you like wild animals. And the first job each morning consists simply in shoving them all back; and listening to that other voice, taking that other point of view, letting that other, larger, stronger, quieter life come flowing in. (C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*)

- What do you hear in this passage?
- What helps you listen to the 'other voice' in the morning? What pushes that voice to the rear?
- The holiday season is almost over and life can quickly get back to normal. What steps can you take to be in touch with the 'quieter life' of Jesus?

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

O God, the true and only life, in whom and from whom and by whom are all good things that are good indeed; from whom to be turned is to fall, to whom to turn is to rise again; in whom to abide is to dwell for ever, from whom to depart is to die; to whom to come again is to revive; and in whom to lodge is to lie; take away from me whatever you will as long as you give me only yourself.

-Thomas Dekker (c.1570-1632)