

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

A Weary World Rejoices - Week 3



CONNECT

Spend some time checking in. What are highs and lows since you last met? How can your group members pray for and support each other this week?

GROW

- When have you experienced *disruptions* in life and how have they changed you? Would you characterize those disruptions as positive or challenging? Why?
- Read Luke 2:15-17 and Matthew 2:1-12 (back). How did disruptions change the shepherds and wisemen?
- How could you prioritize "meaning over more" and "connection over content"? How could the church do the same? What would it look like to be "for our community" and to prioritize "real over right"?
- How might God be disrupting your life or changing your course?
- What does it mean to you that God is right there in the midst of life's disruptions?

PRAY

God of grace, Sometimes life is hard and we are weary. You sent your son into this world so we can find hope, peace, love and joy. In your son's name, Amen.



BIBLE READINGS

Luke 2:15-17

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. **17** When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child.

Matthew 2:1-12

1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem **2** and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." **3** When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. **4** When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. **5** "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: **6** "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel." **7** Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. **8** He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." **9** After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. **10** When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. **11** On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. **12** And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

