

Life Group Discussion Questions

This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son." (Matthew 2:15; see also 2:17 and 2:23)

Starter: Define God's providence. Have you ever seen God's providence evident in or through situations or circumstances in your life?

Flight and Return - Matthew 2:13-23

- Before this week's message, what was your perception of the wise men and their part in the Christmas story? Has your view changed at all after hearing the sermon?
- Was there anything in the message that surprised you or really stood out?
- Read Hosea 11:1. How does Jesus fulfill Hosea 11:1?
- How was God's providence evident in Jesus' flight to and return from Egypt?
- Review Exodus 1:15–22 and 2:11–15, then consider in what ways Herod's actions in <u>Matthew 2:13–16</u> parallel those of the ancient king of Egypt.
- What are the parallels between the exodus story and salvation in Christ?
- Can you sometimes identify with any of the reasons King Herod feared and hated Jesus?
- Three times in <u>Matthew 2:13-23</u> we hear that something happened to Jesus in order that the Old Testament might be "fulfilled" (<u>Matthew 2:15, 17-18, 23</u>). What is Matthew trying to show us about the relationship between Old Testament expectations and the arrival of Jesus?
- How would you respond if someone said that Matthew is simply pulling Old Testament quotations out of context?
- How does this passage as a whole make you rethink Jesus' relationship to the Old Testament?
- How does this passage flesh out Jesus' claim in John 5:39 that (Old Testament) Scripture speaks of Him?