

Egypt

Matthew 2:13-20, John 1:9-11

Date: December 8, 2019

WARM-UP QUESTIONS:

1. Is it a big, big world, or a small world after all? What makes you think so?
2. Think of a personal experience when you felt outside of your personal comfort zone? What thoughts went through your mind at that time?
3. What is one country that you would love to visit? What makes this place so appealing?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. Read through the post-birth narrative of Matthew 2. Why is it significant that Jesus' family had to flee Israel? How would his parents regard their time in Egypt? How does seeing Jesus as a refugee affect your thoughts about him?
2. Why would the Jewish people of Jesus' time hold to the belief that God's power and presence should be limited to its physical borders?
3. What importance would a new "king of the Jews" have to the poor in Israel at the time? How would this differ for those in power (Herod, Pharisees, etc.)?
4. What does it mean when we say, "God is more than just for us"?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. Identify an area of your life/the world that appears to be outside your perceived boundary of God's power. Pray about God making changes there.
2. As Christians, how do we navigate between holding onto theological certainties while being aware that God can surprise us?
3. Our experiences of God don't always line up with other people's - even those close to us. Sometimes this can become contentious. How can we grow with grace and love toward each other?