



Sermon Title: “The Real Christmas Story Part IV” - Randy Hood
Scripture Reference: Matthew 2:1-6

Connect: Grow together

- 1- How has God shown up this week in your life?
- 2- What can you be thankful for this week? Any stressors?
- 3- How are you doing on your spiritual or personal growth? Did you gain any ground last week?

Deeper: Beyond the message

- 1- What was the main point of the message this week? How would you say it?
- 2- What stood out to you?
- 3- What did the message say about you, God’s people or the world?
- 4- How does this message apply in your life?

Application and Challenge

- 1- Read Matthew 2. (Compare to Luke 2) What things can you think of that have settled into Christmas culture that aren’t biblical? (Three wise men, no crying did *He* make)
- 2- What’s the connection with Daniel in the Old Testament and the Magi mentioned in Matthew 2?
- 3- Why was Herod’s response to the Magi so enthusiastic (about a new born king) and why was his response to Jesus being born so violent?
- 4- How can we shake off the compressed, powerless story of Christmas that is so prevalent in our culture and get back to the power and awe that is in the real Christmas story?
- 5- Discuss as a group the three takeaways that Randy shared. **1)** God cannot be put in a box. **2)** God cannot always be explained. **3)** God’s ways are not always my ways.