

weary
world

Rejoices

Week 4 | The Weary World Rejoices | January 3

Key Focus: Jesus doesn't fit in our box.

Opening Up:

How was your Christmas?
What makes a great Christmas?

What are some of your New Year's resolutions?
Why is the new year different from any other time of year? (i.e. Why does it seem easier to start something in January than in June.)

Do you have any goals or dreams for 2016?

Reference: Matthew 2:13-23

Discuss:

1. At New City we define a disciple as someone who submits the way to Jesus in every area of life with increasing measure. Here is a list of areas. You may add more: time, finances, marriage, parenting, sexuality, health, future (hopes), past (forgiveness), present (contentment), work, hobbies, devotional life, emotions (like anger or sadness), etc. Herod was unwavering in his desire to be great as a king even if it meant killing the innocent to protect his throne from King Jesus. Everyone has a throne (or thrones) in their lives. What area of your life do you find most difficult to submit to Jesus?
2. Everyone, it seems, has an agenda for Jesus. In the world that Christ was born into there were four groups of Jews: Essenes, Zealots, Pharisees, and Sadducees. The Essenes retreated from society. The Zealots radically tried to transform society. The Pharisees tried to rise above society (morally). The Sadducees tried to assimilate into society. Which group do you gravitate towards most? Each group had a box for Jesus. They wanted Jesus to conform to that box. What box (or boxes) have you tried to put Jesus in?
3. Why are your expectations of Jesus? When have you felt like Jesus was not meeting your expectations?
4. How does Jesus' birth and flight to Egypt violate your expectations of God? What does this say about God?
5. What might Jesus be expecting of you in 2016?
6. Pray.