

**Personal/Group Training Guide**  
**Week of 12/30/18**

**“A Different Way”**

- (1) Read Matthew 2:1-12. Is there anything specific that strikes you as you read this passage? Anything different than times when you’ve read it before?
- (2) Share your thoughts on the fact that the chief priests and teachers knew where the Messiah was to be born, but yet none of them went to look for him.
- (3) Read verse 3 again. Why would Herod be disturbed at the news of Christ’s birth? What about “the rest of Jerusalem” – why was this disturbing for them?
- (4) What is there in the biblical account that is different than what is depicted in some nativity scenes and Christmas plays?
- (5) Comment on the response of the Magi to the Christ child. How does your response to Jesus compare to that of the Magi – are there any similarities or differences?
- (6) The Magi are warned not to go back to Herod, so they returned on a different route. Why was it so critical that they take another route? (Read verses 13-16.) Have you ever experienced God directing you in a different direction in your life? Share with the group.
- (7) What is the danger in our spiritual life becoming routine? Have you ever felt “flat” or “stale” spiritually? How were you able to overcome it? Did you approach your spiritual growth process differently? What would you recommend to someone experiencing this in his or her life?
- (8) Read Luke 10:38-42. What do you take from this passage as it relates to having and maintaining a vibrant spiritual life?
- (9) Even though the Magi went a different route, they reached the same destination. What is our destination as followers of Christ (aside from heaven)? What about us as a church? What is our purpose/destination?
- (10) What are some tangible ways that you can more effectively fulfill your purpose spiritually? What can you do that could help us be more effective as a church?