**What is God saying?**

* What is God saying about….
* What am I going to do about it?

**Digging Deep**

*Matthew 2 - Jesus, the Fulfillment of Israel’s Story*

Verses 1-12: The Visit of the Magi

* Historical Background – “Magi from the East”
* The Journey – fulfillment of Numbers 24:17 -- "a star" coming out of Jacob and "a scepter" rising out of Israel.
* Old Testament Fulfillment: Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:10-11
* Significance 🡪 fulfills Genesis 12:3

Verses 13-15: The Flight to Egypt

* Typology - a person or thing in the Old Testament that foreshadows a person or thing in the New Testament
  + Joseph’s Obedience
  + Egypt’s Significance
  + Typology of Moses: Jesus is the new and greater Moses
* Old Testament Fulfillment
  + Hosea 11:1: "When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son."
    1. Original referent: Israel - Exodus 4:22
    2. Matthew’s referent: Jesus
* Verse 13: "Herod is going to search for the child to kill him"

Verses 16-18: The Massacre of the Innocents

* Herod’s Actions – world is hostile toward God
* Bethlehem’s Significance: Bethlehem, the city of David, becomes a place of mourning.
* Old Testament Fulfillment: Jeremiah 31:15: "A voice is heard in Ramah, mourning and great weeping, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."
  + Larger Context of Jeremiah 31 = Hopeful, Restoration 🡪 see Isaiah 61:1-3

Verses 19-23: The Return to Nazareth

* The Return to Israel—To Nazareth – part of God’s plan
  + John 1:46: "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"
* Old Testament Fulfillment: "He will be called a Nazarene"
  + not direct quote, but referring to Isaiah 11:1 “branch” of David
  + "He will be called"

**Questions to Dig Deep**

1. What does Matthew's portrayal of Jesus as the new Moses and true Israel reveal about God's plan of salvation?
2. The story of the Magi introduces Gentile worshipers into a Jewish Messiah's narrative. How does this reflect the inclusive nature of Jesus' mission, and why is it significant that the first to honor Jesus were non-Jews?
3. Consider Joseph’s obedience to God’s guidance, even when it meant fleeing to Egypt. When have you faced moments where obedience to God’s will led you down an unexpected or challenging path? How did you see God’s protection and provision during that time?
4. Rachel’s weeping in Bethlehem reflects deep sorrow and loss, yet the wider biblical narrative promises hope. In your life, where have you encountered grief or disappointment, and how does the promise of Christ’s redemptive work offer you comfort and hope?
5. Herod saw Jesus as a threat to his power and responded with fear and violence. What are the "thrones" or "kingdoms" in your life that Jesus might be challenging? Are there areas where you resist Jesus' lordship because of fear of losing control or security?

**Final Questions**