

A CHRISTMAS CAROL
***Facing Regret* •• December 3-4, 2011**

ICE-BREAKER:

What is your favorite movie version of *A Christmas Carol*?

What is your favorite memory of Christmases past?

What is your worst memory of Christmases past?

INTRODUCTION:

What stood out to you from this weekend's message?

We all have our regrets—those “if only’s” in life. What are some of your past regrets or chains that have shaped your life even still today?

How do most people deal with their past regrets?

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. God brings two kings together (Jesus & Herod)—two kings who couldn't have been more different. How were they alike? Different? What was God revealing about how He works?

2. What motivated King Herod? See Matthew 2:1-8; 16-18.

3. What motivated Jesus? See John 4:34; 5:30; 8:54; 10:10, 17.

4. What motivated the Magi to come to Bethlehem? And who were they? (Check out Numbers 24:17)

5. What is the significance of the words found in Matthew 2:6? What does this tell us about the Scriptures?

6. When the Magi arrived, they bowed, worshipped and gave gifts. What is the significance of these actions? What does it mean to worship? (See Romans 12:1) Check out the “Be Rich—Do more-Give more” verse in 1 Timothy 6:18.

7. As we reflect on Christmas, discuss this statement: *Walk past the palace and bow down at the manger.*

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

1. What are the “Herod’s” in your life that compete for your worship?

2. How will you worship God differently this week?

3. How might the Christmas story help you address your past regrets? Your self-centeredness?

4. Who will you do more and give more to this week? Be specific.

THINK ABOUT IT (Something to memorize)

He [Herod] sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.” Matthew 2:8 (TNIV)