



MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK 3 – UNEXPECTED INVITATIONS

TENSION QUESTION:		
Who does God	to be a part of	?
flocks at night. ⁹ An ang around them, and they bring you good news th David a Savior has bee	erds living out in the fields nearby rel of the Lord appeared to them, a were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel sai nat will cause great joy for all the p ren born to you; he is the Messiah, naby wrapped in cloths and lying i	and the glory of the Lord shone id to them, "Do not be afraid. I people. ¹¹ Today in the town of the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign
, ,	npany of the heavenly host appeary to God in the highest heaven, a	5 ,
	left them and gone into heaven, a ethlehem and see this thing that h	•

¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them...²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

- Luke 2:8-18, 20 (NIV)

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ²and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

- Matthew 2:1-12 (NIV)

• They were		D'S UNEXPECTED INVITATION: at having	
• They	the _	they had	been given
		the	
		od's Son would bring	
			to everyone they
encountered			
BIG IDEA:			
	to be a part of His		part of His
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DIGGING DEEPER:

- 1. Think of a time you received an unexpected invitation. Why were you surprised? How did it make you feel to receive it? Did you accept the invitation? Why or why not?
- 2. Why were the people involved in the Christmas story surprised that God had invited them into His story? How does their surprise reveal their humility?
- 3. How did they respond when they heard the news?
- 4. What are some of the ways that the participants in the Christmas story anticipated the revolution that Jesus would bring?
- 5. What did these participants do when they left their encounter with Jesus?
- 6. Why is it significant that God's invitation is open to everyone?
- 7. What does God require of us to receive His invitation?
- 8. Which of the four responses do you connect with the most? Why?
- 9. Which of the four responses do you connect with the least? Why?
- 10. What can you learn from how others have responded to Jesus?
- 11. How can you reflect each of these four responses in your own life?
- 12. To whom do you need to extend God's unexpected invitation?