



### **A. Examining the texts.**

1. Read Matthew 1:18-20. What was Joseph's dilemma, Vs 19 and how did he resolve it?
2. Read Matthew 1:21-25. What was Joseph instructed to do? Why was it significant that he was to name his Son and what did the name mean?
3. Read Matthew 2:1-18. Why do you think Matthew keeps citing OT scripture? What is his purpose?
4. Read Matthew 2:1-18. Why was Herod so threatened by Jesus' birth? How did this paranoia find expression in this early part of the gospel?

### **B. Meditation & application**

5. What does it mean to you that Jesus is God come near?
6. In what ways did Jesus' grow up to be Savior? How was this vision for Jesus different to the political aspirations of his people? How can Jesus be your savior?
7. How was Jesus kept safe from Herod and what does it say about the Father and his plan? How is Jesus' triumph over Herod (outlasting him), a picture of his ultimate purpose?
8. Matthew's vision of Jesus' survival is a prophetic picture of his ultimate victory over sin, death and the powers. How so?

“Dear Heavenly Father; Thank you for coming near to us to bring salvation and to be crowned as Lord and King. Help us to see your Son rightly and to live in ways that like the men from the East brings glory and honor to you as king. In Jesus Name- Amen.