



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
R O C H E S T E R

Sermon Discussion Guide
May 17, 2026

Refresh

Read Matthew 2:13-23 to get the Scripture passage back in your mind.

Discuss

Matthew repeatedly shows patterns between Jesus and Israel, especially the Exodus story. Why is it important that Jesus is presented as the “greater Moses” and the true Son who succeeds where Israel failed?

Joseph consistently responds to God with immediate obedience, even when it disrupts his plans and comfort. In what ways does Joseph’s obedience demonstrate his faith in God? How do believers grow in faith so that they obey God even when they do not fully understand how He is working?

The slaughter of the children in Bethlehem would have brought profound agony and pain to this region. How does Matthew connect sorrow and hope together through Jeremiah 31, and why is that connection important for Christians today?

Jesus being raised in Nazareth fulfilled the prophets’ understanding of the Messiah as despised and rejected. Why do you think God chose for His Son to enter the world in humility rather than in earthly power and prestige? In what ways should this deepen our delight in the Son of God?

Pastor Mark described Herod as a “divinely ordained disruption” that God used to accomplish His purposes. Can you recall a difficult circumstance in your life that God later used for good or for spiritual growth?

Matthew 1–2 presents Jesus as both majestic (“Immanuel,” “God with us”) and humble (“the child,” a “Nazarene”). Why is it essential to hold together both Christ’s glory and humility when considering His ministry and our following Him?