

## **So Close**

*"When Jesus Comes Close, We Find Joy"*

December 20-21

<sup>1</sup> *Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.*

<sup>2</sup> *For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the Lord will arise upon you,  
and His glory will be seen upon you.*

<sup>3</sup> *And nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your rising.*

<sup>6</sup> *A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.  
They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall bring good news, the praises of the Lord," (Isaiah 60:1-3;6).*

### **1. WHEN IT COMES TO FINDING JESUS, PURSUIT IS GREATER THAN PROXIMITY.**

<sup>1</sup> *"After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and 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," (Matthew 2:1-2).*

### **2. GUARD YOUR HEART AGAINST PASSIVITY THIS CHRISTMAS.**

*"When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him," (Matthew 2:3).*

<sup>6</sup> *"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," (Matthew 2:4-6).*

### **3. PURSUE GOD'S PRESENCE IN WORSHIP.**

<sup>9</sup> *"After 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. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup> On 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," (Matthew 2:9-11).*

#### **Group Discussion Questions:**

1. The Magi were far from Jesus yet they pursued Him. The priests were close but never moved. How are you actively pursuing God in this season? What steps might God be leading you to take to draw near to Him this season?

2. Herod was disturbed, the priests were indifferent, and the Magi worshiped. Where do you find your heart this Christmas? What can you do to guard against passivity in this season?
3. The Magi didn't just visit Jesus, they worshiped Him. What might it look like for you to bring your gold (security), your frankincense (devotion), and myrrh (brokenness) to Jesus in this season? Is there anything He's asking you to lay down or a practical act of worship you can offer up?