

CONVERSATION GUIDE

Middle-High School

DATE: 12/13/20

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 2:13-23

LESSON: Jesus, Our Comfort

INTRO

This conversation guide exists to help parents interact with their middle and high school students. Our goal in having middle and high school students attend gatherings (or worship at home) with their parents is to help them transition toward being adults who are fully functioning members of the church. But most middle and high school students still need some translation and help connecting what they're learning to their lives. We want our sermons to be accessible, but they aren't specifically targeted toward the transitional teenage years.

- What are your favorite parts of the Christmas story? How much do you associate Jesus' birth with the more brutal aspects that we talked about today in the sermon?
- How would you tell the Christmas story if you were trying to make it into an action movie?
- **Read Matthew 2:13-18** - "Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." **14** And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt **15** and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."**16** Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. **17** Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:
18 "A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be comforted, because they are no more."
 - Why does Matthew connect Jesus' birth to this really painful and sad prophecy from Jeremiah? (*Matthew is connecting Herod's slaughter of baby boys in and around Bethlehem to the terrible exiled season when Israelite boys were taken as slaves by the Babylonians. In both situations, God's people were experiencing intense evil and pain.*)
- **Read Revelation 21:4-5**. How is Jesus' birth proof that God's promises will come true? What promises of God do you need to be holding onto in this season of your life?