

# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE  
OF PEACE**  
Called to Connect



## We Keep Seeking

*December 31, 2022 & January 1, 2023*

The Magi were priests and astrologers from Persia, on a life quest. They were seeking something new, something different. What they found was so life-altering that nothing was ever the same. As we worship together, we'll encounter the same Child, Shepherd, and Messiah that they did. What a way to start the new year!

### SCRIPTURE TEXT: MATTHEW 2:1-12 (13-23)

Read the scripture text together as a group.

#### BACKGROUND INFO

The Magi were seekers. They sought wisdom, they sought the divine, they sought fortunes to tell the future. Their seeking leads them to Jesus, the newborn king of another culture and religion. And yet, their seeking is also what protects them from Herod's deception and harm. After the Magi go home by another way, Joseph is visited again by an angel in his dream. This time, the angel brings a warning, and like before, Joseph heeds the message. Fleeing from Herod's massacre, Joseph, Mary, and baby Jesus seek refuge in Egypt; they remain there, living as immigrants, until Herod dies. Like the Magi, may we seek the divine and be willing to journey closer to God. Like the Holy Family, may we seek safety for all families who are under threat. This new year and every year to come, let us keep seeking— wisdom, justice, and a better world.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- As a group, brainstorm a list of words that might serve as your inspiration, your guiding star, for the year ahead.
- Consider the word "seeking." As in seeking Jesus. Seeking his wisdom in everything you do. Seeking his way of compassion, love, patience, and serving. How might "seeking" the Jesus Way each day in 2023 change things for you?
- As you seek Jesus in 2023, what do you hope you will find? Jesus the child? Jesus the shepherd? Jesus the savior? All of the above? Something completely different?
- Reread Matthew 2:10. When have you felt overwhelming joy? What emotion are you feeling overwhelmed with today?
- Reread Matthew 2:11. What gifts are you prepared to share as you find and worship Jesus this year?

**CHALLENGE:** Spend some time reflecting on the words you brainstormed as potential guiding stars for 2023. Which word challenges or inspires you the most? How can you bring that word to life in your life in 2023?