

Do You Hear What I Hear?

2025-12-25 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



Matthew 2:1-12

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

In Matthew 2, several groups hear about the same birth and respond in completely different ways. Herod hears it as a threat. The chief priests quote the right verse instantly, and then do nothing. The magi, foreigners with the least information, get up and travel. Pastor Matt used the image of a radio signal. God is always broadcasting, usually at a low frequency. The problem is never the broadcast. It is the static of nearer, louder signals. Elijah heard God not in the wind or the earthquake or the fire, but in a whisper, and he had to reposition to hear it.

To get started

- What is something you only noticed after someone else pointed it out?

Looking back at the message

Three groups, three responses. Get those clear before anything else.

- 1 God is always broadcasting, usually at a low frequency. What did you make of that picture?
- 2 Three responses to the same news: the magi traveled, the scholars quoted the verse and stayed put, Herod was disturbed. Which one is easiest for you to fall into?
- 3 Pastor Matt said God usually works through the subtle rather than the spectacular. Where have you seen that? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read Matthew 2:1-12 aloud. Verses 4-6 are the ones that get skipped.

- 4 Read Matthew 2:1-6. Who has the most information about the Messiah, and who actually acts on it?
- 5 The chief priests answer Herod's question correctly, from memory, instantly. What do they do next? What does that gap tell you?
- 6 Verse 3 says Herod was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. Why would a whole city be disturbed by good news?
- 7 Read 1 Kings 19:11-13. God is not in the wind, the earthquake, or the fire. What does Elijah have to do before he hears anything? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

Static is the useful word here. Ask what theirs is.

- 8 What are the loudest competing signals in your week?
- 9 Pastor Matt said a familiar, distracting signal often shows up right after God says something, like static drowning a broadcast. Have you noticed that pattern in your own life?
- 10 Knowing the right answer and doing nothing with it is the scholars' position. Where are you sitting in that exact spot?
- 11 Elijah had to physically reposition to hear the whisper. What would repositioning look like for you?

The group together

The magi travelled together. That is worth noting.

- 12 The magi came as a group and traveled a long way together. What does that tell you about pursuing something with other people?
- 13 How could this group help each other cut static rather than add to it?
- 14 Is there something God has said to this group that we have all agreed with and never acted on?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What would you have to turn down in order to hear something quieter this month?

You might pray about

- For ears tuned to something quieter than the noise
- For those who know the right answers and feel nothing
- For the courage to travel rather than only agree
- For a Christmas that goes past tradition