

*a Thrill of*  **H O P E**

CHRISTMAS WITH CALVARY

**HomeGroup Discussion Questions**  
Advent Week 2: Dec 12-18

**MAIN TEXT:** Matthew 2:1-12 and Micah 5:1-6 and 7:18-20

**CONNECT**

1. Have you ever had to stop to ask for directions? How did you get into the situation and what happened?
2. What kind of “directions” do people take to attempt to find hope in our world?

**LEARN**

3. The magi, or “wise men from the east,” traveled a great distance to see “he who has been born king of the Jews” (Matt. 2:2). How would you describe the contrast between how these Gentile outsiders responded to Jesus’ birth and how Jesus’ own people responded?
4. What was it about Bethlehem that made it a “small,” unlikely source of hope? Take a minute to discuss whether you see this as a consistent theme for how God moves in our world.
5. Read the description in Micah 5:2-4. Where do you see words or phrases that point to the greatness and strength of the “one who is to be ruler in Israel”?

**APPLY**

6. What does it mean for Jesus to be the ruler of our lives rather than just someone we have fond affections for? If He is your ruler, how is your life different now from what it was like before He became your ruler?
7. Jesus is the standing Shepherd. How could that image of an alert and aware Shepherd help provide hope in your life right now?
8. Pastor Thomas stated that the purpose of Christmas is to worship Christ. What does that look like for you and those you are spending this Christmas season with?

9. What would it mean for you to give people "directions" to Jesus this Christmas? Who around you needs them? Take time to pray as a group that there would be opportunities to direct people to our Hope, Jesus Christ.