



TO BE PROTECTED FOR A PURPOSE

MATTHEW 2:13-18

I. God divinely _____ His Son, who would later fulfill His ultimate purpose.

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." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt 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." vv. 13-15

II. God's heart was _____ when Herod perceived a threat and took innocent lives.

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. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "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." vv. 16-18

WE BELIEVE EVERY CHILD IS HEAVEN-SENT AND SHOULD BE PROTECTED FOR A PURPOSE.

Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him. Psalm 127:3 NLT

1. Scripture teaches that life begins at conception. (Ps 139:13)
2. Scripture explicitly condemns murder. (Ex 20:13)
3. Scripture teaches each person has inherent value. (Gen 1:26-27)
4. Scripture teaches each person has a God-given purpose. (Jer 1:5)
5. Scripture illustrates God's heart for children. (Matt 19:14)

BE A VOICE THAT SPEAKS UP TO PROTECT LIFE

Speak up for _____ as you speak the truth to those you love.

Speak up from _____ as you comfort others with the comfort you've received.

Speak up to offer _____ to protect life where you can.



DEVOTIONAL & HOME GROUP STUDY

1. Read Matthew 2:13-18. Record any insights you note from this passage or from the sermon.

FOR THIS WEEK

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE:
 PSALM 127:3 NLT
Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him.

JOURNAL:
 Matthew 2:13-18

“No other historical records exist of this incident, which is not surprising, since Bethlehem was a somewhat small, rural town at this time. The number of infant boys massacred was a huge loss for Bethlehem, but it was not an incident to stand out significantly when seen in the light of other horrific events in Herod’s infamous career.”

MICHAEL J. WILKINS

2. If Jesus was truly God’s Son and the chosen Messiah, why would God instruct His Son’s family to flee to Egypt rather than confront the enemy?

3. Herod wanted to put to death any potential challenger to his throne. In what ways do we do the same thing when we want to rule on the throne of our own lives? How can you let the Lord rule in your life instead?

4. In what ways is the pro-life issue a spiritual one?

5. In what ways can you “speak up” for those who don’t have a voice or to speak truth to those who need to hear it?

JOURNAL Matthew 2:13-18

One commentary offers this insight into this passage in Matthew:

Centuries earlier, Nebuchadnezzar’s army had gathered the captives from Judah in the town of Ramah before they were taken into exile to Babylon (Jer 40:1-2). Jeremiah depicts Rachel, who is the personification of the mothers of Israel, mourning for her children as they are being carried away. She has no comfort as they are removed from the land, because they are “no more”—that is, no longer a nation and considered as dead. But even as Jeremiah pictures this dreadful mourning for exiled Israel, he offers from God a word of comfort: There is hope for their future because God will restore Rachel’s children to their own land (Jer 31:16-17), and messianic joy will come in the future establishment of the new covenant with Israel (Jer 31:31-34). —The NIV Application Commentary, Matthew

Read Jeremiah 31:1-17. What do these incidents of anguish and mourning teach us about what was to come through Jesus? How does it give you hope that your own future is one of comfort, even in the midst of difficulty in this world?

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here’s a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you’d like to find out even more, visit www.ccbcfamily.org/events. That’s a great spot to see what’s coming up!

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED TOMORROW, Jan. 17, in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday.

FORLIFE 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY For over 40 years Christ Chapel has been a pro-life church, working actively with pro-life ministries and upholding biblical truth with compassionate grace from the pulpit to help transform our culture into one that upholds life. 2022 marks the 10-year anniversary of the launch of our ForLife Initiative, so we invite you to “An Evening for His Glory” next Sunday, Jan. 23 at River Crest Country Club with special guest speaker Dr. Ben Carson. Dinner begins at 6 p.m. and tickets are \$20. Tickets are required because seating is limited to 350 attendees. The event will be streamed live on the CCBC Internet Campus for those unable to attend in person. Go to ccbcfamily.org/ForLife for tickets.

LIVING IN OUR CALLING DESPITE THE CULTURE. Today’s culture is in complete opposition to God’s way, so how do we live out a calling of faithful obedience even when it collides with the culture? Discover the answers alongside other men of all life stages by joining the Band of Brothers study on 1 Peter this spring. Together, we’ll learn how to live out our Christian calling even in a culture that collides with truth. Register at ccbcfamily.org/events.

GOD’S BEAUTIFUL STORY OF LOVE AND SALVATION CONTINUES WITH YOU. The lives of Samuel, Saul and David are interwoven as they learn that God looks at the heart, and His help is needed to be successful. 1 Samuel is filled with stories of joy and tragedy, adventure and danger, obedience and disobedience—all in the context of God working out His purposes of salvation in each of us, then and now. Join Women in the Word this spring as we experience through this study of 1 Samuel the reality that our story is right in the middle of God’s story. Register at ccbcfamily.org/events.

PARENTS, REGISTER FOR THE 2022 TOPICS IN PARENTING CONFERENCE. We’re here to encourage and equip you as you navigate our world and disciple your children with wisdom and clarity. At this year’s conference we’ll assess the current cultural climate and give you more building blocks for faith-based parenting that keeps your family focused on Jesus. The conference happens Saturday, Jan. 29 at the Fort Worth Campus. The cost is \$10. Learn more and register at ccbcfamily.org/events.

REGISTER YOUR MIDDLE SCHOOLER FOR WINTER CAMP. Happening the weekend of Feb. 11-13, Winter Camp is a retreat for students in Grades 6-8 to talk about relationships, integrity and sexuality. It’s a fun weekend and safe place for honest conversations about finding our identity in Jesus. Head to ccbcfamily.org/events to register your student.



NEW TO CHRIST CHAPEL? FILL OUT A CONNECT CARD. Scan the QR code here to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week to answer your questions and tell you more about Christ Chapel.

IF YOU’D LIKE TO GIVE AN OFFERING TODAY, YOU CAN DO SO STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE. The process is quick and easy—text CCBCFW to 833-422-7200 to get started.