

3. Consider the response of Herod.

a. What foreshadowing do you find of Herod's ill intent and deception in the narrative before his murderous orders were issued in 2:16?

b. How does it feel to have a rival – to feel as though you are being overlooked or replaced?

c. How can a competitive, prideful, or insecure spirit alter a person's behavior?

d. What happens when people try to thwart God's plan?

e. Why is it important to obey God immediately?

Sermon Notes

"Sudden Burst of Angelic Activity"

Matthew 1 – 2

December 13, 2020

Let's Pray:

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 12-13-2020

Questions adapted from James Galvin, ed., et al., New Testament Lesson Maker,
NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1992, pp. 9.

Getting Started:

1. What is one of the most memorable dreams you've ever had?

Digging Deeper:

2. Read Matthew 1:18 – 2:23. Pay particular attention to the activity of angels.

- a. There are three instances where angels are specifically mentioned, plus two more that are implied. Identify all five cases.
- b. What change of plans is prompted in each case?
- c. In each case, consider what consequences might have occurred had the angelic message not been heeded.
- d. Of the following angelic roles displayed in Scripture, which ones do you see evident in these five cases and how?
 - Warriors carrying out God's wrath in power
 - Defenders protecting and delivering God's people
 - Guides giving clear and specific instruction from God
 - Comforters bringing encouragement and strength
 - Messengers who reveal, inform, and enlighten
- e. How does the sudden burst of angelic activity in the infancy narratives add to the authentication of Jesus as the Messiah?