

## Study Guide

### Love

### Matthew 2:13-23

Big Idea: The fulfilled promises of God show me that He still loves me!

#### Introduction

Read Romans 15:4

*"For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."*

How does seeing the fulfilled promises of God encourage you in the midst of your story? Discuss how Joseph and Mary must have felt to have to flee to Egypt. How was their "detour", really the protection of God. What can we learn from their story?

#### 1. Egypt- Relentless Love

Read Matthew 2:13-15

In this prophecy, God links the Christ-child with the Old Testament gospel of coming out of Egypt. We learn from the quote (Hosea 11:1-7), that God's love is relentless. How do you feel about the idea that God's love for you knows no boundaries?

#### 2. Exile- Hope in Despair

Read Matthew 2:16-18

Here God links the exile (Jeremiah 31:15) to the Christ-child to show us in the midst of total despair, He is still promises a future and a hope. How do you feel knowing that even in the unanswered questions of life, God still offers us hope for our future?

#### 3. Despised- Dignity in Shame

Read Matthew 2:19-23

Here God links Isaiah 53:3 to the Christ-child being despised and rejected of men. How do you feel knowing that Jesus understands what it is like to be despised and shamed?

#### Application

Take a few minutes to pray and tell Jesus that, as you wait on Him for unanswered questions, you choose trust that He loves you. Thank Him for His unconditional love. Thank Him that He took our shame upon Himself.

## Message Slides

Humanity of Christ- Hope

Deity of Christ- Peace

The Coming of Christ- Joy

**Fulfilled Promises of Christ- Love**

Romans 15:4

“For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”

**Big Idea:** The Fulfilled Promises of God show me that He still loves me!

### I. Egypt- Relentless Love (v.13-15)

<sup>13</sup>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.” <sup>14</sup>And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt <sup>15</sup>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.”  
destroy

*Image- dragon/woman include in white letters on black- Rev. 12:4*

“His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it.”

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### I. Egypt- Relentless Love (v.15b)

“This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I called my son.’”

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Hosea 11:1-7

“When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.”

... The more they were called, the more they went away...I took them up by their arms, but they did not know that I healed them... I led them with cords of kindness, with bands of love... My people are bent on turning away from me."

## II. Exile- Hope in Utmost Despair (v.16-18)

<sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: <sup>18</sup>"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."

### Pre-exile promise- Jeremiah 31:3b; 9-14

"I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you...water...Father...gather...redeemed...sing...radiant ... goodness...grain, ...wine, ...oil, ...flock...herd; ... watered garden, ... dance, ... be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow."

### Exile sorrow- Jeremiah 31:15

Thus says the Lord: "A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more."

### Post-exile- Jeremiah 31:16-17

Thus says the Lord: "Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears, for there is a reward for your work, declares the Lord, and they shall come back from the land of the enemy. <sup>17</sup>There is hope for your future, declares the Lord, and your children shall come back to their own country.

## III. Despised- Dignity in Shame (v.19-23)

<sup>19</sup>But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, <sup>20</sup>saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." <sup>21</sup>And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup>But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being

warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee.<sup>23</sup> And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

*Image-despised -include Isaiah 53:3*

“He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”

**Big Idea:** The Fulfilled Promises of God show me that He still loves me!

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1. Egypt- Relentless love
2. Exile- Hope in utmost despair
3. Despised- Dignity in shame