

LEADER TRAINING

► KNOWING JESUS AS KING COMPELS US TO SURRENDER ALL TO HIM.

SCRIPTURE | Matthew 2:1-12

1 CENTRAL TRUTH

God didn't give us good gifts for us to hoard. Instead of clinging tightly to our talents, passions, and time, we can offer them in worship to Him.

2 KEY QUESTION

WHY DO WE SOMETIMES WITHHOLD OUR BEST (OUR GIFTS, TALENTS, TIME) FROM GOD? HOW CAN WE OFFER THEM IN WORSHIP INSTEAD?

3 KEEP IN MIND

Some of your students grew up with a warped view of God. Maybe they didn't go to church or misunderstood Scripture. They may believe God is harsh, stern, angry, and eager to punish people. And believing this way leads to a distorted view of God. Let's get honest: If this is how our students view God, then they'll see Him as a threat—a threat to their fun, to their passions, to their lives. In response, they'll run; they'll hold back because they fear surrendering to Him. They'll fear what He'll take or how He'll change them. We need to help students reorient their understanding and look to Jesus to show them God's character—because He is God. God loves us. He sent His Son to save us. He gives us good gifts. He is compassionate and slow to anger. We must rehearse these truths and help our students see that everything God does is good.

4 APPLICATION

IN WHAT AREAS OF YOUR LIFE ARE YOU NOT GIVING GOD YOUR BEST? HOW CAN YOU?

5 THE WIN

FOR THE STUDENT: When students encounter Jesus, they have a choice to respond either in surrender or in defiance. When they surrender all to Him—even what they love most—the result is joy (v. 10). Why? Because salvation in Him—knowing Him—is better.

FOR THE LEADER: As a leader, what would it look like to bring your best before King Jesus? Consider how offering your talents, time, and worship—even when doing so is difficult—helps students understand God's immense worth.