**Scandalous Reception**

**Sermon Based Discussion (December 11, 2016)**

**Receive & Believe (Advent 2016)**

**WARM UP**

1. Think of any people you might spend time with during the holidays—e.g., extended family, old friends, etc. How much do those folks know about you going to church and/or small group? How open do you feel about talking to them about church/small group/Christianity?

*We we continue in our Advent series of “Receive & Believe”, we come to a well known story about how people reacted differently to news of the birth of Jesus Christ.*

*In this session we will see the different people and their reactions. We’ll consider who we identify with most and how that relates to our lives.*

**INTO THE BIBLE (Matthew 2:1-12)**

1. Who are the three main groups of people in this account who react to Jesus’ birth?
2. On a scale of 1 to 10 (1=lowest, 10=highest), how favorable were they towards the news of Jesus’ birth? Explain your answer.

**UNDERSTANDING**

1. What is unexpected about how the various groups responded about the news of Jesus’ birth?
2. In the message, Pastor Enoch referenced a common way to categorize how to view the historic Jesus: Liar, Lunatic, or Lord. What is meant by each label?

**DIFFERENCE**

1. Which of the three groups of characters—King Herod, the chief priests & scribes, or the magi—do you most identify with and why?
2. How do you feel knowing that people who would never expect to believe in Jesus do end up converting to Christianity? (And vice versa) Can you share examples of people who are these “least likely converts” to Christ?

**APPLICATION**

1. What is one practical step you can take week towards greater belief and obedience to Jesus?
2. If you were to invite someone to BCEC’s Christmas Eve Service (12/24 at 5pm in Chinatown), who would it be? Will you pray and invite them this coming week? .