



Matthew 2:13-23

Christmas day is one moment of celebration in a lifetime of struggle and opposition.

Flight to Egypt

Massacre at Bethlehem

Return to Nazareth

God remains sovereign in the struggle and gives guidance in the fight.

Prophecies Fulfilled

Guidance Granted

Download "Everyday Christmas?" (12/26/10 by Tim Hawks) free, or share it via email, Facebook or Twitter at [hbc.com/media](http://hbc.com/media). You may also purchase a CD at the Resource Center in the East Lobby.

# REALife Application

Use the following questions this week to reflect on what it would mean to align yourself with the truths taught in Scripture. Each question is meant for both personal reflection and as a catalyst for discussion with your family, friends, or REALife Group.

- 1) Make a list of all the emotions normally associated with Christmas. Now read Matthew 2:13-23. Compare this story with your list. How does this change your feeling about Christmas?
- 2) What was the hardest thing you faced in 2010? Did you feel surprised by it? How do you reconcile God's love for us when we face hardships? See John 16:33.
- 3) When you see the specific prophecy fulfilled in the early life of Jesus, what does it teach you about God? Should we ever believe that God is surprised by the hardships we face?
- 4) God provided specific guidance to Joseph (in dreams) but he still had to do the hard work of obedience. What are some things you perceive God is leading you to do in 2011?



## Memory Verse

### Matthew 2:23

“And he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets: “He will be called a Nazarene.”