

Small Group Discussion Guide

For the week of December 25 - 31, 2022

Main Thought and Scriptures:

The birth of Jesus brought hope (a confident expectation of the future) to the world. The Israelites waited for His promised arrival amid terrible persecution and oppression for hundreds of years. Many wondered if God had forgotten about them and if He still cared for them. Jesus' birth revealed that God had not forgotten about them, that He does indeed care, and that He hasn't forgotten about us as well.

"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'

¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.' ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.' ¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

¹⁷When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told." (Luke 2:8-20 NIV)

- Christ gives us hope (confidence) for a new, blessed life on earth.
- Through Christ, we have hope (confidence) in eternal life in heaven one day.
- This hope should motivate us to live generously and give hope away to others.

Discussion Questions:

- As you reflect on the main thought, scriptures, and the weekend sermon, what is the Lord highlighting to you and why?
- How has Christ given your life hope? How has the reality of His miraculous birth, life, death, and resurrection given you hope in this life? How has it changed your life? Explain.
- How has this hope motivated you to give hope away to others? What practical steps can you begin taking to give hope away to someone else? Explain.

Prayer:

- Pray for one another to find hope in Christ amid life's circumstances.
- Pray for someone who needs the hope that we have in Christ. Pray that God will give us each an opportunity to give them hope this Christmas season.

New Year's Weekend special service times

Main Campus

- Friday, December 30 - 7:00 pm
- Saturday, December 31 - No service
- Sunday, January 1 - 9:15 am, 11:15 am, & 6:00 pm (*no 7:30 am service*)

Downtown

- Sunday, January 1 - 10:30 am (*one service only*)

Kapolei

- Thursday, December 29, - 7:00 pm (*no Sunday services*)

Pearl Highlands

- Sunday, January 1 - 9:30 am (*one service only*)

Normal service times will resume the following weekend.

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