



The JOURNEY to JOY

CHRISTMAS AT HOPE CITY

Discussion Guide

12/10/2023

Hope Starts With Him

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Main Idea

Happiness is something that comes from something that happens.
JOY, however, is what comes from eternal security with God. Joy starts with Jesus.

Anchor Verse: You make the path of life known to me. Complete joy is in your presence.
Pleasures are by your side forever. (Psalm 16:11, GW)

Read: Matthew 2:1-11

The Journey to Joy is for Everyone

The Magi were not part of the Jewish lineage. You may be here today with no Christian heritage or lineage and even a messy past asking, can God actually love me? He not only is calling you, He's been calling you, and He is so in love with you.

Why do you feel disqualified to be loved and accepted by God? After reading John chapter 15, how do you see yourself?

Read: Psalm 70:4, Isaiah 63:1, John 15:11 & 16

The Journey to Joy is a Journey of Faith.

It is a journey of faith that is built on HIS Word. Jesus is the REAL truth. So we must find joy in our faith, and faith in His truth

What truth have you been holding onto? Is that truth grounded in the Word of God?

Read: John 14:6

The Journey to Joy is a Journey to Jesus.

Where you start to LOVE like Jesus, SERVE like Jesus, and GIVE like Jesus, and as a result, find JOY like Jesus had...but it's a choice. The journey of the magi started with the knowledge of God's presence but ended in meeting with God face to face. THAT is where we find joy!

What choices are you making every day to journey closer to Jesus?

Read: 1 Chronicles 16:11; Romans 15:13; Hebrews 3:4

SUMMARY

I think it's appropriate that we talk about journeys today because that is truly what life is all about. Life is about the journey of you in a relationship to the journey of Jesus. It is a narrative that has been played out for thousands of years and continues right now down to this very moment. In the Bible, every Christmas season, we hear the story of three men... on a long journey to meet the newborn King.

CALL TO ACTION

1. Read through the story of the Magi and remember the joy of the journey.
2. Consider what you will give toward the [Hope for the House](#) offering.
3. Invite everyone you know to our Christmas production on 12/22 & 12/23 at the West Houston campus, and then to our Christmas Eve service at your campus on Sunday 12/24 at our regular times. Click [HERE](#) for more details.
4. Register to serve at our Hope For Christmas project. **Click [HERE](#)**

GROUP LEADER RESOURCE

Game: Fill the Stocking

Two-four teams compete to fill stockings using plain M&M's and teaspoons! This is a relay-race type game.

Each team has one bowl of M&M's and a teaspoon. The game begins with a member of each team racing across the room with a teaspoon of M&M's being careful not to drop any M&M's. Be careful! If they drop any, they have to start over.

They dump the M&M's into the stocking and race back to give the next member the spoon. She scoops up M&M's and races to the other end (racing against the other team) to fill the stocking. The first team to fill their stocking wins.

Tip: set a time limit and use a timer.