



## Sermon Discussion Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Church Sermon Series: Thrill of Hope: Week 2 (December 10, 2023)

*This guide is a supplement to the weekly sermon. We encourage families and groups to use it. When we hear God's Word, we need to do more than listen. The bible says, "Be doers of the word, not hearers only" (James 1:22). Step 1: **GATHER** with your family or group. Step 2: **REVIEW** and **DISCUSS** the key points and scriptures from the sermon. Step 3: **PRAY** for the prayer requests shared by your family or group.*

### DISCUSSION STARTER

Do you tend to be more of a pessimist or an optimist? Why?

### DIGGING DEEPER 1

**Read Luke 2:4; Matthew 2:23; John 1:46.** Using a good Bible Study tools like [Bible Hub \(biblehub.com\)](http://biblehub.com), [Blue Letter Bible \(blueletterbible.org\)](http://blueletterbible.org), [Got Questions \(gotquestions.org\)](http://gotquestions.org), and [Enduring Word \(enduringword.com\)](http://enduringword.com) study through these scriptures before responding to the following questions: Who belonged to the house and line of David? Who is Joseph? Who is Mary? Where are "Judea" and "Bethlehem"? How far was Bethlehem from Nazareth? Why did Joseph have to travel so far? What do you think the trip was like for them? What is the significance of Nazareth? Why is Bethlehem called "the town of David"? What does the town of David mean? Where are "Galilee" and "Nazareth"? Why did God choose Joseph and Mary to be the earthly parents of Jesus (see **2 Samuel 7:1-11**). Notice what God told David, he said, "He would make a House but what does, "Make a house," mean? Who is the king that 2 Samuel 7:11 is speaking of?

### DIGGING DEEPER 2

**Read Jeremiah 23:5-6; Romans 5:12; John 3:3; 1 Corinthians 15:22; Isaiah 7:14; Micha 5:2.** Using a good Bible Study tools like [Bible Hub \(biblehub.com\)](http://biblehub.com), [Blue Letter Bible \(blueletterbible.org\)](http://blueletterbible.org), [Got Questions \(gotquestions.org\)](http://gotquestions.org), and [Enduring Word \(enduringword.com\)](http://enduringword.com) study through these scriptures before responding to the following questions: Is there ever a time in the Bible that predicts that Jesus would be a king and that Jesus would be a direct descendant of David? What is the prophesy of Jeremiah 23:5-6 saying? Why did Jesus need to have earthly parents? And why did they both need to be direct descendants of David? What was Joseph to Jesus? According to Romans 5:12, John 3:3, and 1 Corinthians 15:22, why did Mary have to be a virgin? When we are born physically what is our spiritual state? How do we break the cycle of inherited sin nature from Adam? How does Isaiah 7:14 and Micah 5:2 give solid evidence that God orchestrated a fool proof way to identify the Messiah?

### DIGGING DEEPER 3

**Read Luke 2:5-7.** Using a good Bible Study tools like [Bible Hub \(biblehub.com\)](http://biblehub.com), [Blue Letter Bible \(blueletterbible.org\)](http://blueletterbible.org), [Got Questions \(gotquestions.org\)](http://gotquestions.org), and [Enduring Word \(enduringword.com\)](http://enduringword.com) study through these scriptures before responding to the following questions: What is meant by Joseph and Mary being "betrothed" or "pledged" to be married (Luke 2:5)? During the time of Jesus what was the process of marrying someone? Where was the "guest room" (Luke 2:7) that had no space for them? Bethlehem was a small village too small to even show up on the map. What does guest room actually mean? Did Mary give birth immediately after arriving in Bethlehem? What are "swaddling cloths" and "manger"; Is there some significance to why she wrapped Him in cloths and placed Him in a manger (Luke 2:7)? What does Mary giving birth to her "firstborn" (Luke 2:7) Son indicate?

### DOING THE WORD

There was never any room for Jesus, He wasn't welcome in His own hometown, scripture says He had no place to lay His head. In a world that often has no room for Jesus is that reality in your life today. Is there room for Jesus in your life? Close out your time by listening to Casting Crowns "While You Were Sleeping". Wake up o' sleeper for your King is coming!