



## Sermon Discussion Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Church Sermon Series: Thrill of Hope: Week 4 (December 24, 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

How is your profession viewed by the public? Have you ever felt judged either positively or negatively due to your job? How did you feel about this?

### DIGGING DEEPER 1

**Read Luke 2:7-12.** Using a good Bible Study tools like [Bible Hub \(biblehub.com\)](http://Bible Hub (biblehub.com)), [Blue Letter Bible \(blueletterbible.org\)](http://Blue Letter Bible (blueletterbible.org)), [Got Questions \(gotquestions.org\)](http://Got Questions (gotquestions.org)), and [Enduring Word \(enduringword.com\)](http://Enduring Word (enduringword.com)) study through these scriptures before responding to the following questions: If humanity had the opportunity to orchestrate the birth of the Savior, to write the story about His birth, what do you think it would've been like? How different would it have been from God's way? If God appeared to you as the angel did to the shepherds, what would you be "greatly afraid" about? Is this a good fear or a bad fear? If it is a bad fear, is there something you can do about it?

### DIGGING DEEPER 2

**Read Luke 2:13-16; John 10:11.** Using a good Bible Study tools like [Bible Hub \(biblehub.com\)](http://Bible Hub (biblehub.com)), [Blue Letter Bible \(blueletterbible.org\)](http://Blue Letter Bible (blueletterbible.org)), [Got Questions \(gotquestions.org\)](http://Got Questions (gotquestions.org)), and [Enduring Word \(enduringword.com\)](http://Enduring Word (enduringword.com)) study through these scriptures before responding to the following questions: What is the Highest Heaven? Are there other Heavens? What does the word "host" mean? Compare and contrast the peace that Caesar Augustus offered to the peace Jesus offers. Why Shepherds? How did the training of these Bethlehem shepherds prepare them for this high privilege? Give several examples. How did God weave the lineage of shepherds into the story of Jesus? In John 10:11 what does Jesus identify Himself as? What does a good shepherd do for his sheep? How is the story of the shepherd our story? How do they compare? Can you imagine being seen as unclean, and unworthy to walk into the temple, to be in the presence of God? How are we unclean and unworthy to stand in the presence of God? How did Jesus change that? Explain the "Thrill of Hope" the shepherds felt when they first met the Savior.

### DIGGING DEEPER 3

**Read Luke 2:17-20, 22-24; Leviticus 12; Malachi 3.** Using a good Bible Study tools like [Bible Hub \(biblehub.com\)](http://Bible Hub (biblehub.com)), [Blue Letter Bible \(blueletterbible.org\)](http://Blue Letter Bible (blueletterbible.org)), [Got Questions \(gotquestions.org\)](http://Got Questions (gotquestions.org)), and [Enduring Word \(enduringword.com\)](http://Enduring Word (enduringword.com)) study through these scriptures before responding to the following questions: What was the response of the shepherds when they met Jesus? Is their response your response? What does Leviticus 12 tell us? What did God do? What was the fulfillment of the prophesy of Malachi 3? What is the significance of Mount Moriah? What has spoken to you most through this message series "The Thrill of Hope"? How does it inspire you and how has this led you to respond to Jesus?

### DOING THE WORD

The message of Jesus is this— "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends" (John 15:13). Jesus' message was God's love for the people of this world. And there is no better way to reflect the true Light of Christmas than by sharing the love of Christ who came into this world with a message: "God loves you."

Christmas provides one of our best opportunities to share the warmth of God's love with others. As Jesus came to be the Light of the World, we should carry that light into the hearts and lives of those in our family, workplace, church, and community. The warmth of Christmas comes from the inside. During this happy season, allow the warmth, wishes, and witness of the season to well up within you to overflowing.

Spend some time in prayer as a family, thanking God for His marvelous gift of love—His Son, Jesus Christ. Read John 3:16 together and ask God to give you the opportunity and boldness to share the Gospel with an unsaved loved one this Christmas.