



Sermon Discussion Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Church Sermon Series: Thrill of Hope: Week 3 (December 17, 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

What was your all-time favorite Christmas gift? Why?

DIGGING DEEPER 1

Read Luke 2:4-7; Joshua 15:20-61. 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: Why was it so important that Jesus be born in Bethlehem? Joshua lists all the towns that Judah inherited; how many towns made up the land of Judah? Why wasn't Bethlehem on the list? Pastor Sam said, "God takes something so insignificant in the worlds eye and uses it to do something incredible through". What does that say about what God wants to do through you and me?

DIGGING DEEPER 2

Read Micah 5:2; Isaiah 40:28. 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: Bethlehem was the town of _____. What does Micah 5:2 prophesy 100's of years before it happened? How many Bethlehem's were there? What does Ephrathah mean? Why is this so significant? How do we know that Micah 5:2 is talking about the Messiah (see the last part of the verse)? What does the word "ancient" mean in Hebrew? Put together what Micah is saying here? So what person is born in Bethlehem that is eternal (see Revelation 22:13 and Colossians 1:16-17)?

DIGGING DEEPER 3

Read John 6:23-35, 51; John 1:29. 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: We've learned that Bethlehem connects Jesus to King David. But how is God weaving the story of Christ the Messiah and His salvation into the meaning of His birthplace? A few weeks ago, Pastor Sam asked us to look up what Bethlehem means in Hebrew. What did you discover? Why is this so incredible that Jesus was born in a place (Bethlehem) know for bread? How did God provide for His people every morning while they were wandering in the wilderness for 40 years? How is Jesus the fulfillment of that? Jesus has come to fulfill our _____ hunger? Why do we hunger for a relationship with God? Not only does Bethlehem represent what Jesus has come to do to give us life, but how He would give us life. Pastor Sam also asked everyone to lookup the Aramaic definition/meaning to Bethlehem. Why Aramaic? What does it mean? Like the "house of bread", Bethlehem was famous for raising a certain type of livestock that were spotless and without defect, what was it? Where was Jerusalem getting their lambs to sacrifice for Passover week? What did the sacrifice accomplish? In John 1:29 what is Jesus?

DOING THE WORD

Not only was Jesus born in the city of King David to fulfill prophecy; Jesus being called the bread of life was born in the city called "The House of Bread," He is our spiritual sustainer. The way that Jesus spiritually sustains is by conquering ours sins by being our sacrificial lamb, who is born in a city called "The House of Meat" famous for raising spotless lambs for sacrifice. The story God was weaving had so many layers of meaning. How do these prophetic truths, being fulfilled in Christ, inspire you this Christmas season? God used the little town of Bethlehem to do something incredible through and that is what God wants to do through you! Will you submit to His plan for your life? Close by talking to God and surrendering all you are to Him for His Kingdom plan.