

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FROM DECEMBER 18/19 SERMON

If you missed the sermon, you can find it at biblechapel.org/sermons.

ICEBREAKER: What was your all-time favorite Christmas gift?

1. Micah 5:2 says that Jesus was to be born in Bethlehem. God used an emperor's decree to get Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to the place of Christ's birth. We noted in the sermon that: **In God's eternal mind with his eternal power, he controls history in accordance with his eternal plan.**

Read Jeremiah 1:12 and Proverbs 21:1. Discuss how God continues to work today to accomplish his eternal plans.

2. **Read Luke 2:1-7.** Part of understanding the Bible is to read it imaginatively. So take some time to imagine what that 70-mile journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem would have been like for a pregnant Mary and nervous Joseph.

How do you think they felt after finding no place to stay after such a long journey?

Imagine Mary's mix of emotions when she placed her newborn in a feeding trough?

3. What is the basis of Christian joy?

What are the things you've experienced that have tried to rob your joy?

What are some things you do that keep your joy hardwired into your relationship with Jesus?

4. **Read Psalm 13.** Can you relate to David? Discuss how David's joy is not circumstantial but relational (not based on life's circumstances but his relationship with God).

BIBLE REFERENCES

Micah 5:2 ESV

The Ruler to Be Born in Bethlehem



² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
 who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
 from you shall come forth for me
 one who is to be ruler in Israel,
 whose coming forth is from of old,
 from ancient days.

Jeremiah 1:12 ESV

¹² Then the LORD said to me, "You have seen well, for I am watching over my word to perform it."

Proverbs 21:1 ESV

¹ The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD;
 he turns it wherever he will.

Luke 2:1-7 ESV

The Birth of Jesus Christ

² In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Psalms 13 ESV

How Long, O LORD?

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

13 How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

2 How long must I take counsel in my soul

and have sorrow in my heart all the day?

How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

3 Consider and answer me, O LORD my God;

light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,

4 lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him,"

lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.

5 But I have trusted in your steadfast love;

my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

6 I will sing to the LORD,

because he has dealt bountifully with me.

Source: biblegateway.com