

The Cast of Christmas

December 11, 2022

"The Shepherd's Message of Hope and Joy"

1. The World is _____ for Hope and Joy.

— Matthew 4:16

— Matthew 9:35-37

Big Idea: "Jesus: Our Reason for Hope and Foundation for Joy"

2. _____ the Hope and Joy of Christmas.

— Luke 2:8-14

— Luke 2:15-18

The Shepherds teach us to:

a. _____ – Discussed and Obeyed.

b. **RESPOND** – Discovered and Decided.

c. _____ – Spread the word about Jesus.

3. Jesus Gives a Hope and Joy that Can't _____.

— Romans 8:28

— Philippians 4:4-5

— Habakkuk 3:17-18

Happiness > Circumstances VS. Joy > Values

4. Don't _____ for Anything Less

— Psalm 51:3-4,12

— Ephesians 2:8-9

— John 8:36

— 2 Corinthians 5:17

“The Shepherd’s Message of Hope and Joy”

“Jesus: Our Reason for Hope and Foundation for Joy”

Discuss and Apply

Use the following questions to help you formulate age-appropriate questions to stimulate meaningful conversations. Please share your ideas and experiences with us at connect@manna.church.

1. When is it most difficult to believe or feel that you are loved and accepted by God?
 2. When have you felt closest to God? Describe your experience with one another.
 3. What sorts of things have drawn you closer to God? What seems to “push” you away from him? What part can you play in experiencing more of His presence?
 4. Discuss the difference in Happiness and Joy – as highlighted by Pastor Tom’s message.
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Prayer

Father, thank You for this gift that is unlike any other gift that has ever been given. Thank You for sending Your Son to save us from our sins. We forget what a wonderful and amazing gift our salvation really is. **Fill us with your hope and joy**—a joy so complete and overwhelming that we, like the shepherds, are compelled to share it with others. We are thankful for the certainty of heaven in Jesus. But until that day, we, like the shepherds, will choose to glorify and praise You. We will continue to rejoice in who You are and all that You’ve done. We thank You and praise You. In Jesus’s name, amen.

At Manna, We Believe

Upon trusting Jesus as God and Savior, a person’s life begins to change as God works in him and as he continues to submit to Him. The Christian life is marked by obedience to the Lord and the Bible. Believers should increasingly bear the fruit of the Spirit as listed in *Galatians 5:22-23* and demonstrate faith through good works according to the gifts, talents, and abilities the Lord has provided.