

Hope & Joy

The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.

John 1:14

1. It is because things are _____ that Jesus came...

to be with us in the _____

2. We have hope because _____

“Do not be terrified...for the LORD your God will be with you.”

Joshua 1:9

*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,
for you are with me.*

Psalm 23:4

“The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?”

Psalm 27:1

3. We have hope because Jesus changes our _____
circumstances

- When we have a _____ we take it with us wherever we go
- Jesus came to save us from our sins

“...you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21

Our life is changed! We see, love, forgive, and act as God does

4. When we do, it will _____

5. The first Christmas can be seen as a series of _____

Or it can be seen as a series of _____

Choose to focus on the _____ that _____



a very merry
CHRISTMAS
service

10:30 am Saturday

Daily Growth

Use these 4-C questions below to help you study each day's scripture.

CELEBRATE: What can you praise God for from this passage?

CONFESS: Are you convicted of something you need to confess to God?

COMMIT: What commitment does this passage challenge you to make?

COMMUNICATE: What did you learn that you can share with someone?

Day 1: Read Isaiah 40:1-6. This is a prophecy of the coming of Jesus the Messiah. What is the comfort Jesus brings? Contemplate this gift and offer thanks. This passage gives a figurative description of preparing the way of the Lord. This Christmas week what will you do to prepare yourself for God's presence? What is God saying to you (use the "4 C" questions)?

Day 2: Read Luke 3:1-18. Here we see that John the Baptist is the fulfillment of Isaiah 40. How would you paraphrase the instructions he gives for preparing the way for the Lord? How will you apply this to your own life this week? What is God saying to you (use the "4 C" questions)?

Day 3: Read Luke 4:14-21. Jesus is declaring that he is the Messiah, the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy (Isaiah 61). Is there a figurative prison in your life that holds you captive? Do you know of someone who is captive to a sin? How will you claim and proclaim this Good News? What is God saying to you (use the "4 C" questions)?

Day 4: Read Matthew 1:18-25. Put yourself in Joseph's shoes and consider what God was asking of him. How big of a stretch of faith was this for him? Joseph's role may seem small in the Christmas story, but God used him to protect and provide for Jesus the Son of God. What stretch of faith is God asking you to undertake? What is God saying to you (use the "4 C" questions)?

Day 5: Read Matthew 2:1-12. Why in the world did the Magi feel it necessary to take this journey? How much effort are you putting into serving and worshiping Jesus? What is God saying to you (use the "4 C" questions)?

Day 6: For Christmas day read the Christmas story in Luke 2:1-20. What is God saying to you (use the "4 C" questions)? Merry Christmas!