



Sermon Discussion Guide

The Weary World Rejoices: Joseph Matthew 1:18-23 | December 6, 2020

Big Idea

Even in the middle of a mess, we still have hope because of Jesus.

Opening Questions

What kind of Christmas shopper are you? Do you enjoy it? Do you prefer online or in-store? Are you done with your shopping already?

Key Scripture Questions

1. Read **Matthew 1:18-19**. Joseph found himself in the middle of a mess. Can you relate to this feeling of having a mess in your family? Share how if you're willing.
2. We can have hope **because Jesus is not afraid of our messes**. What hope do we find based upon the fact that Jesus' very coming created a family "mess?" Do you have any messy areas of your life in need of hope?
3. Read **Matthew 1:20-21**. We can have hope **because with Jesus nothing is impossible**. How does this truth give you hope? Do you have any examples of where you've seen Jesus do the impossible in your life?
4. Read **Matthew 1:22-23**. We can have hope **because Jesus always keeps his promises**. Why do we equate silence with inaction? What are some ways we can stay hopeful during the times God is silent?
5. The Bible is filled with many promises for us that we can turn to for hope. Do you have any favorites? What are they? Why are they your favorites?
6. Read **1 Peter 5:6-7**. As you think of your weary world, what is the biggest anxiety you are facing right now that you need to humbly cast upon God? How will doing so give you hope?

Concluding Questions

Which of the three listed reasons for hope resonates the most with you? What are some ways you can cling to those reasons to have hope in a weary world?

Application Questions

1. What do you think the Holy Spirit may be saying to you through this sermon and our discussion?
2. What is something God wants you to do now?
3. Beyond prayer for each other, is there a way we can help each other apply what God is showing us?

Prayer Time

"Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for giving us reason to have hope. Thank You for joining us in the mess to do the impossible for us. Help us to remember Your promises and to humbly cast our anxieties upon You. Amen."