



Hope: Christmas Eve

December 26th & 27th

Speaker: Dr. Mark Batterson

Scripture: Matthew 2:11, Luke 1:29, Psalm 27:13

Series Overview

Hope came to us in the form of a child around 2000 years ago. This child grew into a man that would become the Anchor that we place our hope in. By overcoming the world, He gifted us with a divine Spirit that would guide us into the revelation of what hope is.

Series Discussion Questions

How did you share hope this week?

Message Overview

A choice was made over 2,000 years ago that required GREAT faith! In Matthew we see where three WISE men make a decision to follow a STAR that would lead to a SAVIOR. The wise men took the journey bearing GIFTS. When they made it to where the CHILD had been born, they bowed in reverence and worshiped. The WISE men were a miracle to Joseph and Mary. The steps that Joseph and Mary took required GREAT faith, and God PROVIDED for them every step of the way.

Message-Specific Discussion Questions

The Magi did not know where they would end up when they embarked upon their journey of following the star, but that did not stop them from starting out. Their actions required them to rely on their faith, and by doing so God showed them the way. **How do you plan to take the first step and rely on God to show you the way in 2021?**

Pastor Mark said when the Magi came to baby Jesus: “They opened their treasure chests and gave him a **baby Yoda**.” Not exactly..... “They opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” The wise men’s gift were Mary and Joseph’s Miracle during this time. **What are some ways that you have been and or could be someone’s miracle during this season?**

Pastor Mark stated: “Don’t seek opportunity. Seek God, and opportunity will seek you.” **How are you going to make time to seek God in this upcoming season?** (ex. prayer, fasting, reading the Bible)

Mary and Joseph had to put all of their trust in God when they found out what God was about to do in their lives. As you prepare to enter 2021, **what do you feel that God wants you to trust Him with?**

Practical Application

- Set aside some time this week and list out ways that you could step out by faith in pursuit of a deeper relationship with Jesus. Take it one step further and do one of the following on the list.
- This week we enter the Christmas weekend service in our series on hope. We’ll turn to the voices of NCCers, specifically our artists and our children. Each day we will gather together with our church family, hearing from one another and exploring creative expressions of hope through story, song, Scripture, and more. Find a daily rhythm of connecting with God and with one another by committing to [NCC Daily](#). Invite a few others to do so with you, connecting throughout the week via Marco Polo or a group text, or meeting together online or in person to discuss and debrief what you’re learning.
- Climb the stairs to the [Upper Zoom](#) each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 7:14am. Join us as we start our days in His presence together, listening intently, and responding in prayer. Register at ncc.re/UpperZoom.