



The Words of Christmas - Hope and Joy

Sunday, November 26 and December 3, 2017

Lesson:

There are many words that surround the Christmas season - and for the next few weeks we will look at four of them: Hope, Joy, Peace, and Love. This week, the study guide will look at the word from last week, Hope, and this week, Joy.

ICEBREAKER:

What is an earthly possession you've always hoped for, but never received?

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. What is the difference between worldly hope and Christian hope?
2. Last week we looked at Isaiah 43 as a source of hope for the Israelites.
 - a. Read Isaiah 43:1. How does this passage identify hope for them?
 - b. How does God prove this in verse 2?
 - c. How does verse 5 give them hope?
3. What is the difference between worldly joy and Christian joy?
4. What is the difference between happiness and joy?
5. How is joy in our Christian life divine? (see John 15:11 for an example)
6. Why is that our joy is not dependent on anything other than being a child of God?
7. Explain
 - a. joy as a fruit of the spirit.
 - b. What does this mean?
 - c. How does this make joy something that all of us should have as Christians?
 - d. What does that look like?