



Christmas Celebration 2016

WARM UP

What is your favorite local destination?

SET IT UP

Christmas is a reminder that we have reason to hope, even in difficult times... because we trust in a sovereign God. Christmas is the proof that even when things seem out of control, God is fully in control and is working out his purposes in our lives.

CHAT IT UP

1. **What are you most looking forward to over the holidays?**
2. **Read Luke 2:1-7. What do you think Mary and Joseph were hoping for when the baby was due? How was that different than their actual experience?**
3. **How was Jesus' birth story different than ones you are familiar with?** (ex: your story, your child's birth story, etc.)
4. One of the reasons we lose hope is that we focus on the wrong things: circumstances and people. **When has a circumstance or person let you down?**
5. Setting our hope on Jesus doesn't change our circumstances (at least not right away) but it does change us. **How has focusing on Jesus changed how you responded to a messy situation?**
6. "Hope" is an elusive idea. **How can we set our hope on Jesus when we find ourselves in messy situations?**
7. **Is there a hope you need to shift from a circumstance or person to Christ this holiday season?**

WRAP IT UP

Hope is to the soul what oxygen is to the body—without it, we start to die. During this Christmas season remember that hope is not found in a "what" but in a "Who." The truth is: Jesus was born into a mess; which was God's way of saying that he wants to step into the mess of your life and bring something new and better – and this is where we find hope. Set some time aside to focus on the Savior.