



Hope for Everyone, Pt. 4: Hope Dealers

Matthew and Luke include the stories of groups of people whom most people in Israel would have overlooked or flat out rejected. These groups of people are included in the account of the birth of Jesus to remind us that there is Hope for Everyone.

Bottom Line: Followers of Jesus are hope dealers.

Discussion Questions:

1. What kind of people are hardest to reach with a message of hope? Why?
2. **Read Genesis 12:1-4.** What aspects of this account would have been encouraging to Abram? Brought him hope?
3. **Read Matthew 2:1-2.** The “wise men/Magi from the east” were outsiders to the nation of Israel and they would have been looked down on because of their nationality and cultic religious practices. Why would Matthew include them in the account of the birth of Jesus? How do you see the promise of Genesis 12:3 beginning to be fulfilled in Matthew’s account?
4. **Read Luke 2:8-11.** Shepherds were a class of people who were overlooked and disregarded in their day. Why, then, would Luke included this detail about the birth of Jesus?
5. What group or category of people in your sphere of life are being overlooked with the message of hope that Jesus brings? Why do you think this is so? What can you do to be a “hope dealer” to them?
6. As the Church and as followers of Jesus, we are called to be dispensers of hope to all the world.
 - a. To whom do you need to take the message of hope? A neighbor? A co-worker? Someone you would never imagine following Jesus?
 - b. How can you be a beacon of hope in a world of darkness? At work, at home? To the ostracized in your world?
7. What has been the most helpful thought/idea from the message this week? How has that thought/idea helped you?
8. How can the group encourage you this week?

*If time doesn't allow for you to discuss all of these questions, use only the ones you feel would be most helpful for your group.