



Sermon Discussion Guide

Dec. 14 & 15, 2024

“Make Room for the Main Course!”

[Luke 10:38-42](#)

This Advent season, the “Joy to the World” sermon series invites us to rediscover the deep and abiding joy found in the promises of God. As we navigate the challenges of waiting, longing, and hope, we’ll reflect on the transformative power of Christ’s coming—past, present, and future. Join us as we prepare our hearts to celebrate the Savior who brings true joy to the world.

PRAY & CONNECT

Open in prayer and invite the Holy Spirit into your conversation. Ask God for wisdom and discernment and trust him to guide you. Take time to recap the message or view it on [HopeOnline.tv](#). Did you have any “ah-ha” moments where you felt convicted, compelled, or inspired during the sermon? What’s been on your mind this week? Have you been able to apply the message to your everyday life?

GROW

Read [John 15:4-5](#) – “Jesus, the True Vine”

- What does it mean to “abide” in Jesus? How might this look in your daily life during a busy season like Advent?
- How do we know when we are producing the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)? What specific fruits do you want to grow in this season?
- Why is it challenging to remain connected to Jesus when life becomes chaotic? What tools or practices help you stay connected?
- Imagine a life where abiding in Jesus is your foundation. How might that change how you approach your responsibilities and relationships?

Read [Luke 10:38-42](#) – “Jesus Visits Martha and Mary”

- Why do you think Martha felt justified in asking Jesus to correct Mary? How do cultural or personal expectations influence our feelings of fairness?
- How do you balance being a “Martha” and a “Mary” in your own life? What steps can you take to ensure your busyness doesn’t distract you from Jesus?
- What can we learn from Jesus’ response to Martha? How might this shape how we interact with others during the holiday season?
- Reflect on a time when you were overwhelmed by expectations. How might focusing on “the one thing” Jesus offers have changed your experience?

Read [Matthew 6:33](#) – “Teaching About Money and Possessions”

- What does it mean to “seek first the kingdom of God”? How does this perspective challenge cultural expectations of success or fulfillment?
- What steps can you take to realign your priorities with God’s kingdom in the weeks leading up to Christmas?
- Jesus warns about distractions that pull us away from God. What distractions tend to consume your attention, and how can you invite God into those areas?
- How does trusting in God’s provision free you from stress or anxiety? Share examples of how you’ve seen God meet your needs.

APPLY

Pick one of the applications below to put into practice this week ...

- **Start your day with Jesus.** Set aside 10 minutes each morning to pray or reflect on a Bible passage. Focus on abiding in Jesus and invite him into your day.
- **Choose the “one thing.”** Identify one holiday expectation or task that’s overwhelming you. Release it, trusting God to guide you to what truly matters.
- **Release expectations.** Spend intentional time each day reflecting on what expectations you’ve taken on—spoken and unspoken. Write them down, and prayerfully ask God to help you release the ones that distract you from abiding in him. Then, practice letting go by choosing one expectation to surrender completely—whether that’s skipping an unnecessary task, saying no to an invitation, or giving yourself permission to rest without guilt.