

The Journey to Hope

Part 1 of *The Star*

Isaiah 7:14, 9:2; Psalm 31:24; Romans 15:13

Pastor Jon Ashley

December 3, 2017



¹⁴ The Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us').

² The people who walk in darkness will see a great light.
For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine.

Isaiah 7:14, 9:2 (NLT)

How do we follow the star on a journey of hope?

1. Acknowledge the darkness (Isaiah 7:14, 9:2)

- We live in a world of darkness and fear
- Jesus is God with us
- The light of Jesus shines in our darkness

2. Embrace the wait (Romans 15:13)

- Advent is a time of waiting
- We wait to celebrate Jesus' birth, and his return
- Embrace the waiting with hope

3. Commit to the journey (Psalm 31:24)

- Active waiting means being present fully to the moment
- The journey requires strength and courage
- Show up and be willing to follow God's lead

Conclusion: Fill your heart with hope in Jesus Christ!

REFLECT (Questions to respond to this week):

- Read today's Bible passages. How is the Holy Spirit speaking to you?
- What evidence suggests we are living in a time of darkness?
- Do you like waiting? How does the period of waiting in advent help you prepare?
- During Advent, are you rushed, or are you fully present to the moment?
- How could active waiting deepen your journey to hope?

Scripture Reading

Romans 15:13 (NIV)

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Star: A Journey to Christmas

Dec. 3 *The Journey to Hope*

9 & 10:30 a.m. (Isaiah 7:14, 9:2; Psalm 31:24; Romans 15:13)

Dec. 10 *Star Trip: Our Faith Awakens*

10:30 a.m. only (Christmas Music Sunday)

Dec. 17 *A Journey of Joy*

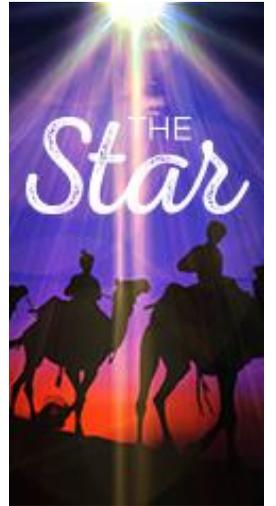
9 & 10:30 a.m. (Psalm 126:5; Matthew 2:10; 1 Peter 1:8)

Dec. 24 *The Star: A Journey to Christmas*

4:30 p.m. only (Psalm 19:1; James 1:7, John 8:12)

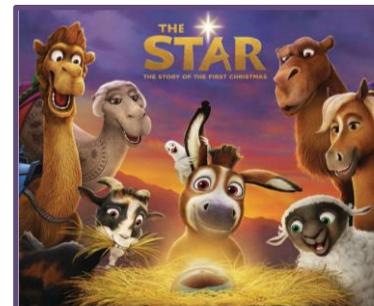
Dec. 31 *A Journey of Peace*

9:00 a.m. only (Luke 2:13-14; Isaiah 26:3; John 16:33)



STAR
OUR FAITH AWAKENS
TRIP

NEXT SUNDAY
DECEMBER 10
10:30 A.M.
(ONE SERVICE ONLY)



Come enjoy a movie matinee of
THE STAR
THE STORY OF THE FIRST CHRISTMAS
Sunday, December 17, 1:00 p.m. (approx. time)