



"The Shepherds" - December 24, 2025
Sermon by Pastor Tim Ghali

Group Leader Notes

The Christmas Eve Pastor Tim centers on the universal longing for "more" and proclaims that this hope is ultimately found in Jesus; through the story of Jesus' humble birth. The shepherds were ordinary, overlooked people who were the first to receive the good news. This message emphasizes that God sees us, meets us in our pain, and comes near to us as Emmanuel, "God with us." Pastor Tim weaves personal stories of disappointment, grief, and unmet expectations to show that hope is not a fleeting feeling or found in circumstances, traditions, or nostalgia, but in a relationship with Jesus himself. No matter one's doubts, losses, or weariness, the good news of Christmas is that Jesus offers forgiveness, love, and lasting hope, and encountering him naturally leads us to share that hope with others.

Main Scripture Reading: Luke 2:8-11

Group Discussion

Begin in prayer before reading and discussing the text.

1. **Pastor Tim talks about how we can feel disappointed or long for "more," even during Christmas.** Where have you experienced that kind of longing in your own life, and how do you usually respond to it?
2. **The shepherds were ordinary, overlooked people, yet they were the first to hear the good news.** What does that tell us about who Jesus comes for, and how might that shape the way we see ourselves or others?
3. **Pastor Tim emphasizes that hope is not a feeling but a person—Jesus.** What does it look like, practically, to trust Jesus as "Emmanuel, God with us," especially in seasons of grief, stress, or disappointment?

Let's Pray

<https://youtu.be/zpW0pG5pb-I?si=e51fQdroS7YmdmgN>

