



Taking Worship Into Your Week

12.20.20

“Good grief!” That was the phrase Charlie Brown used every time he was stressed and frazzled. Sometimes, the way we prepare for Christmas causes us to become frazzled with the result that we might exclaim, “Christmas? Good grief!” So, each Sunday of Advent, we’ll use the beloved cartoon “A Charlie Brown Christmas” as we bring God’s Word to bear on how we can change our preparations into a time of hope and joy.

Are you trying to “direct” how Christmas is supposed to look like, feel like, this year – as if you were the director of a kid’s Christmas play, as Charlie Brown was? If so, you’ll need to hear, “Fear not,” as we recall that Christmas is not under our direction or control, but is a blessing that God wants to give us.

1. Look up Isaiah 41:8-10 and discover:
 - Why were God’s people afraid?
 - What had they done, which brought about their fear?
 - What does this suggest about who is, very often, responsible for our fear?
2. Look up Mt. 1:18-21 and discover:
 - Of what, do you think, was Joseph afraid?
 - What was God’s “bigger picture” in which Joseph could play a part?
 - What does this suggest about our having choices about our fears?
3. Look up Luke 1:26-31
 - Name the possible reasons Mary would be “troubled” and afraid.”
 - What does this passage suggest about how God can use people – even fearful people?
4. Look up Luke 2:8-11
 - Describe, from the story, how fast life can go from normal to fearful.
 - Seeing/hearing angels was probably a new experience for these shepherds; what does that suggest about one of the reasons for our fear?
5. Look up Mt. 28:1-8
 - What greatest fear we can have was buried that day Jesus was raised from the dead?
 - How does faith that Jesus has been raised make a powerful impact on us when we too suffer losses of those we love?
 - What is going on in your life right now that you most need God’s assurance, with the words, “fear not?”