



Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

*If you could open your own store,
what would you want to sell?*

1. How do you attempt to gain control of chaos in your life, even if it ends up being just a false sense of control?
2. What are some ways you have experienced 'disruptions', as Pastor Tony described them, and how has God's presence and purposes helped to calm your fears in the midst of them?
3. Why was King Herod desperate to find and kill Jesus and how can we react similarly or differently when God's authority confronts an area of our life that has not yet become His?
4. What promise and hope did the birth of Jesus bring and how is this meant to change how we live - even when our life doesn't seem merry and bright?
5. Jesus' arrival did not suddenly shield the world from tragedy. How does the coexistence of the hope-filled promise of Christ and deep, heartfelt tragedy inform our outward focus?

PERSONAL GUIDE

*This Personal Guide has been adapted from
Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System.*

Day One: Luke 14; Psalm 147

Day Two: Numbers 30; Proverbs 23

Day Three: Hebrews 4; 2 Kings 21

Day Four: 2 Timothy 3; Ezekiel 24

Day Five: Job 23; Acts 7



Your
story
matters.

DEC 28, 2025

Message Notes



**Merry and Bright:
Celebrating the Greatest Gift of Christmas**

"Jingle... Bells?"

Tony Myles | Dec 28, 2025

Life (even during Christmas) can feel like a back-and-forth between _____ and trying to _____.

We're tempted to try to elevate _____ - which doesn't eliminate chaos but tries to _____ it.

We see this even within our desire for the " _____ " of Christmas music.

Thankfully, the true story of what we celebrate doesn't skip noticing the _____.

What's jingling? (Matthew 2)

_____... (v. 1a)

- God doesn't wait for _____ conditions to do _____ things.

But also, _____ (v. 1b-2)

- It's harder to listen to God's Story when we keep wanting to _____.

_____... (v. 3-8)

- Being a real person in God's real story doesn't mean you won't experience real _____.

But also, _____ (v. 9-11)

- We discover how to trust God _____ (without knowing _____) only by grasping _____.

_____... (v. 12a)

- We still have _____.

But also, _____ (v. 12b)

- Faith doesn't remove us from _____ but _____ the way we go about it.

_____... (v. 13, 16)

- Can we see the _____ in Herod - but not _____ (specifically/generally)?

But also, _____ (v. 14-15)

- Joseph leads with it...but still shows a _____ toward _____.

_____... (v. 18)

- What we can't control can create a _____.

But also, _____ (v. 17)

- Every _____ has the potential to become an _____.

_____... (v. 19)

- There are times when a reset is _____ needed.

But also, _____ (v. 20-23)

- God invites us to walk forward with awareness He will _____.

How can this Christmas actually be "merry and bright"?

Don't miss how it is _____

- There are moments in history where bells rang to recognize something _____.

But also, don't miss how it is _____

- Jesus didn't wait for the noise to quiet down before He came to speak _____.

Don't miss this...

Because God is real, He has the last word over everything that _____.

God is telling a _____ story filled with _____ love.

Tell us about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!

App: Message Notes/Connect Card **Or:** MYRC.LINK/CONNECT



Merry and Bright: Celebrating the Greatest Gift of Christmas

"Jingle... Bells?"

Tony Myles | Dec 28, 2025

Life (even during Christmas) can feel like a back-and-forth between celebrating and trying to survive.

We're tempted to try to elevate order - which doesn't eliminate chaos but tries to micromanage it.

We see this even within our desire for the "good parts" of Christmas music. Thankfully, the true story of what we celebrate doesn't skip noticing the pain.

What's jingling? (Matthew 2)

History... (v. 1a)

- God doesn't wait for perfect conditions to do ideal things.

But also, eternity. (v. 1b-2)

- It's harder to listen to God's Story when we keep wanting to write it.

Fear... (v. 3-8)

- Being a real person in God's real story doesn't mean you won't experience real disruptions.

But also, worship. (v. 9-11)

- We discover how to trust God immediately (without knowing later) only by grasping eternity.

Natural responsibilities... (v. 12a)

- We still have bags to pack.

But also, supernatural purpose (v. 12b)

- Faith doesn't remove us from life but reshapes the way we go about it.

Control... (v. 13, 16)

- Can we see the villain in Herod - but not ourselves (specifically/ generally)?

But also, trust. (v. 14-15)

- Joseph leads with it...but still shows a dip toward safety.

Grief... (v. 18)

- What we can't control can create a hole.

But also, gain. (v. 17)

- Every outlet has the potential to become an inlet.

Retreat... (v. 19)

- There are times when a reset is temporarily needed.

But also, restoration. (v. 20-23)

- God invites us to walk forward with awareness He will guide.

How can this Christmas actually be "merry and bright"?

Don't miss how it is red...

- There are moments in history where bells rang to recognize something serious.

But also, don't miss how it is green.

- Jesus didn't wait for the noise to quiet down before He came to speak Good News.

Don't miss this...

Because God is real, He has the last word over everything that feels final.

God is telling a larger story filled with larger love.

Tell us about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!

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