



Session 12: True Hope
Suggested Week of Use: May 17, 2015
Core Passages: Malachi 1:1-11

News Story Summary

A new princess has been born in Great Britain. Charlotte Elizabeth Diana was born to parents Prince William and Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge on May 2, 2015. Charlotte, the feminine form of Charles, appears to be a nod to the newborn's grandfather, Prince Charles. The baby's middle names honor Queen Elizabeth II, the infant's 89-year-old great-grandmother, and the late Princess Diana, William's mother and the baby's grandmother. Charlotte is also featured in Kate's family, as the middle name of her sister, Pippa Middleton.

Elaborate celebrations to welcome the fourth in line to the throne of England included the ringing of Westminster Abbey's bells and dozens of deafening volleys fired from Hyde Park and the Tower of London.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the sentence "Britain's new princess.")

Focus Attention

As participants begin to arrive encourage them to share about celebrations around the birth of a child. After most have arrived, share about the recent birth of Princess Charlotte in Great Britain.

Ask: What would be a fitting celebration for the birth of a princess? Emphasize some of the celebrations that occurred.

Explain that being a prince or princess carries responsibilities for both the heir and the people subject to the throne. Allow the group to suggest responsibilities each party has to the other.

Transition: "Today we are going to be looking at the Prophet Malachi and his reminder to God's people of His love for them and what their response should look like."

Challenge

Remind the group of the outpouring of love expressed over the birth of Princess Charlotte of Great Britain. Lead participants to reflect on what it looks like to respond with an outpouring of love. Direct participants to take some time to record ways they can respond to the love God has for them specifically as it pertains to true worship.

Pray: Request a volunteer to close in prayer focusing on God's overwhelming love for them. Direct them to specifically list and give thanks for the ways that God shows His love for us.