

Discussion Guide

Discussion Guides accompany the [weekly message](#).

Opening Activity:

What's a Christmas tradition, memory or moment from your past that once brought you hope—or that you wish *still* brought you hope today?

Read:

Isaiah 9:1-7

Matthew 4:12-17

Philippians 2:5-11

John 1:1-14

Discussion Questions:

1. Where have you experienced “deep darkness,” and how has God shined light into it? (Isaiah 9:1-2)
2. How does seeing Isaiah’s prophecy fulfilled in Christ strengthen your trust in God today? (Matthew 4:12-17)
3. What “yoke” or heavy burden are you longing for Jesus to break in your life this Christmas season? (Isaiah 9:4-5)
4. Which title of Jesus (Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace) do you need most right now and why? (Isaiah 9:6)
5. How does knowing Jesus existed before creation—and entered time for us—deepen your hope? (John 1:1-5, 14)
6. When have you placed hope in something temporary, and how did Jesus invite you into something deeper?
7. Which part of your Christmas season feels hardest to face right now, and how can hope in Christ reframe it?
8. Where do you see “light breaking into darkness” in your life or family this year?
9. How can we help one another keep our hope fixed on Jesus rather than on circumstances?

Challenge for the Week:

Choose one person who may be walking through a difficult holiday season and intentionally encourage them with the hope you have in Jesus—through a call, message, handwritten note, or coffee conversation.