



Week 1 – The Promise of Hope

How to use This Guide:

Talking through the message during the week helps you and your group turn what God is saying to you into action steps. Begin with the discussion questions, add any optional scriptures and questions if needed, and then wrap up by deciding on your next steps.

Discussion Questions:

- What's one of your favorite Christmas carols? What is it about this carol that is so special to you?

With your Bible or YouVersion, read Luke 2:1-21.

- This passage describes the birth of Christ.
- What types of emotions or thoughts do you have when you read about Christ's birth in Luke 2?
- What do you find most inspiring about the way Christ's birth is described in Luke 2?

Read Lamentations 3:20-26.

This passage describes what a new day with Christ brings.

- In what ways have you seen Christ give you exactly what you need?
- What needs do you currently have that you are relying on Christ to provide?
- Where in your life do you feel tired and weary? What has caused your weariness?
- What steps do you need to take to let go of your fears and hold onto the hope you have in Christ?
- How is the hope you have in Christ like no other?
- How was your coming to know Christ as your Savior like the dawning of a new day?

Read Hebrews 6:18-20.

This passage describes our hope.

- How have God's promises brought you strength and peace
- Why do we doubt God's faithfulness? What are some of God's promises that you have experienced in your life?
- **What was your biggest take-away from the weekend message?**
- **What did God say to you today through His Word? And what are you going to do about it!**

Next Steps

Our culture has planted this equation in us: "Spending money = love." So an invitation to "spend less" feels jarring and unloving. But the equation is false. We can spend many things besides money on others—energy, time, creativity, and so on. Spending money on unneeded "stuff" is not love; it's just spending. Think through specific plans as to how you can spend less, yet love more, this Advent season. Pray about how you can support our special Christmas Offering at Cornerstone.

5 Day Devotional

1. Thank God for that holy night when He sent His one and only son Jesus to be with us.
2. Share with God your current needs. Ask Him to help you in meeting those needs.
3. Ask God to renew those areas of your life where you feel tired and weary.
4. Thank God for continually giving you exactly what you need. Take time to praise Him.
5. Pray for those you know who are still trapped in darkness and don't know Christ. Ask God to help them see the light of a new day during this Christmas season.