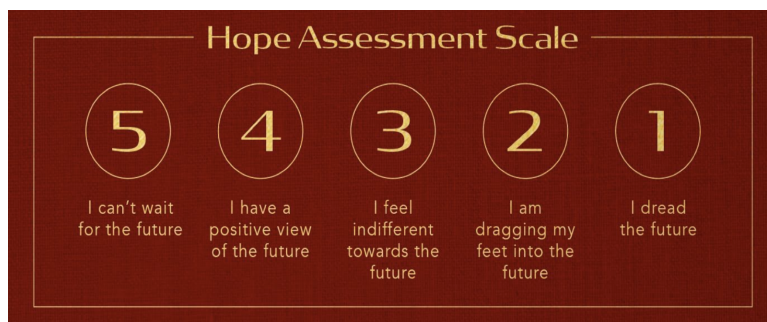


SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Part 1: Hope

1) **Icebreaker:** Go around the group and share where you fall in the hope assessment scale with a brief explanation.



2) In his book, *Man's Search for Meaning*, Viktor Frankl recounts the horrors of living through the Holocaust in Nazi Germany. In his eyes, those who lost hope were the ones who did not survive. Do you agree or disagree with the sentiment that "without hope, it is impossible to survive?"

3) The birth of Jesus happens under the rule of Herod, a king who was known for being power-hungry, paranoid, and cruel. His people lived in a constant state of despair and anxiety. Read Matthew 2:1-12. What does this passage reveal about where the wise men found hope in the midst of this environment?

4) Where have you noticed a false sense of hope within you? This could be found in people, positive thinking, future plans, finances, etc. How can you build a more confident future outlook that is based on God's unfailing promises instead of these uncertain things?



What is Advent? It's the season when we look back to Christ's first coming, as a baby born in Bethlehem, and look forward to his second coming when he will return to renew and redeem every part of fallen creation. The advent season is therefore a time to reflect upon the promises of God and to anticipate the fulfillment of those promises. It is a time for remembering and rejoicing.

To join our devotional, visit our website:
www.newstorychurch.com/advent