

## **The Gift of Hope**

*Advent / A Clear Creek Christmas*

### Discussion Questions

1. What is the purpose of Advent and what are its four major themes?
2. Christmas truly is a hopeful time for some, but not for everybody. Why do you think we see an increase in depression and anxiety around the holidays?
3. Who was that nation of Israel and what were they called to be? As a result of their own disobedience what did God do
4. Read Isaiah 11:1-10
  - What promise is God making to the nation of Israel through the prophet Isaiah?
  - How is this promised one described?
  - What impact will this King's leadership have on creation? What's significant about the image that Isaiah paints?
  - Isaiah 11 is clearly hope for Israel but why should Isaiah 11 inspire hope for us today?
5. Read Romans 15:8-12
  - According to Paul in Romans 15 what was the two-part purpose of Christ coming?
  - How does Christ death, burial, and resurrection kickstart Isaiah's vision of a perfect Kingdom into action?
  - How does Romans 15 inspire hope for all people?
6. What is the difference between biblical hope and optimism?
7. What makes advent a reservoir of hope for all who are hopeless?