

## Seeking Hope in Scripture | *Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 1:5-25*

Big Idea: *God brings true hope when we trust His timing and His word, even when our circumstances feel silent, disappointing, or impossible.*

### INTRO & ICEBREAKER

Christmas is a season of searching. We look for memories, moments, meaning, peace, answers, and hope to name just a few. The story of Zechariah and Elizabeth reminds us that God often begins His work long before we see it.

- What's something growing up you remember hoping or searching for at Christmas?

### SCRIPTURE & SERMON

- Zechariah and Elizabeth were “upright in the sight of God.” What stood out to you about the way they lived faithfully despite disappointment?
  - Why do you think obedience is connected to experiencing God's hope?
- The angel's message came after 400 years of silence. What does their story reveal about God's timing, especially when we feel like nothing is happening?
- Zechariah focused on his circumstances (“I'm old”), but Gabriel focused on God's presence (“I stand in the presence of God”). Where do you tend to do the same?

### GIVING IT HANDLES

- Where do you see yourself in this story today? Waiting, doubting, obeying, discouraged, hopeful, or something else?
- What does it look like for you to “seek hope in Scripture” this week instead of seeking it in circumstances, routines, or your own solutions?
- How can our group pray for each other and encourage each other to trust God's timing and see His work even if it's not obvious?

### PRAY TOGETHER

- A fresh sense of hope during Advent
- Eyes to recognize God's timing and a heart to trust His presence over circumstances
- Courage to walk in obedience even before answers come.