

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS — Advent Week 2: Hope

OPENING QUESTION (Icebreaker)

1. *Did you ever wish for something and you got it? What was it and what was it like to get it?*
Read Isaiah 9:1–2 together.
2. Isaiah names the darkness before he announces hope. **Why is honesty about our darkness essential for Christian hope?**
3. The tribes of **Zebulun and Naphtali** carried generations of trauma and devastation. **Where do you see “Zebulun and Naphtali moments” in our world today?**
4. Travis said, *“Hope doesn’t ignore the storm—hope waits for the dawn.”* **What is one “storm” in your life where hope feels dim right now?**
5. Nathanael asked, “Can anything good come from Nazareth?” **Where in your life have you quietly asked something similar: ‘Can anything good come from this?’**
6. *Read Isaiah 9:3–5 and Hebrews 11:1.*
7. Isaiah emphasizes, *“You have... You have... You have”*—all God’s action. **Why is it hard for us to believe that hope comes from God and not from our own effort?**
8. Travis said, *“You cannot create your own sunrise.”* **Where do you feel most tempted to manufacture hope instead of receiving it?**
9. Gideon’s faith was weak, yet God worked through him. **How does Gideon encourage you—or challenge you—in your own weakness?**
10. Jesus said, “Apart from Me you can do nothing” (John 15:4–5). **What part of your life most needs to “abide” rather than to “achieve”?**
11. *Read Isaiah 9:6–7*
12. Which of the four names of Jesus—**Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace**—do you feel most drawn to right now? Why? Which of those names is hardest for you to trust? Why?
13. What might it look like to “transfer the weight of the government” onto Christ’s shoulders this week?
14. Choose one name of Jesus from Isaiah 9:6. **How will you intentionally “abide” in that aspect of Jesus this week?**
15. **End in Prayer Together**