



Week 1- “No More Gloom”

This year has reminded us that we live in a broken world where broken things happen. As the year draws to an end we are probably feeling more angry, lonely, and tired than we have in a long time. In this Christmas series, we will look at what Christianity teaches about the God that stepped into our brokenness to give us real help to navigate the mess, and hope that the brokenness of this world will not last forever.

1. What is the biggest stressor you are facing in your life right now? How is this stress impacting your life and your relationships?
2. We often don't feel like ourselves when we are hungry, angry, lonely or tired. How have you seen these things play out in your life this year? How are you seeing this in those around you?

Read Isaiah 8:21-22, 9:1-7

Christianity teaches that God stepped into a broken world to bring real hope so that one day there will be no more gloom, but instead there will be joy, peace, and rest.

3. Do you find yourself surprised when broken things happen in this broken world? How is your faith in God impacted during difficult circumstances?
4. How would your life be impacted if you walked through brokenness knowing that broken things happen but because of Jesus one day it won't be broken? How would this truth help you through uncertainty?

Read John 3:15-16, 5:11-13

5. Jesus came to bring eternal life. How often do you live with the mindset that this world is not your home? Do you find it hard to keep a perspective of heaven when faced with the daily things of this life?

One of the most important things about Christianity is that Jesus offers us eternal life. The beauty of Christmas is that Jesus stepped into the middle of our distress, hungry, angry, lonely, and tired world to give us hope that this is not the way it will always be.

6. Jesus stepped into the brokenness to give you eternal rest, joy, peace, and life. Have you taken a step of trust that Jesus was born to save you from the mess of this broken world?

7. If you are a Christian how can you live as if eternity is real? When you are hungry, angry, lonely, and tired pause to remember: *Jesus has overcome this world and there is hope that one day it won't be this way.* How can remembering these truths help you live in peace that God is above it all?

8. How can you share the hope of Jesus with someone around you this Christmas season?

We live in a broken world where broken things happen. Jesus stepped into the brokenness to give us real help to navigate it with peace, joy, and hope that one day it won't be broken anymore. When we choose to live in this reality we don't have to succumb to the worst parts of us when we are angry, lonely, and tired. We can rest in the promise of eternal peace, joy, and rest.