

## Discussion Guide (December 10, 2023)

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Message: *From Heartbreak to Hope (Series: Wish List)*

### PRIMARY PASSAGES (NIV)

**Matthew 1:1** *This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham...*

#### **Matthew 1:18-25:**

*This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.*

*But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."*

*All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").*

*When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.*

#### **Galatians 4:3-7:**

*So also, when we were underage, we were in slavery under the elemental spiritual forces of the world. But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.*

### MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- Joseph's "Adoption Story" gives us a window into how we can have hope in the midst of our heartbreak. The six chapters of his story are
  - Chapter 1: God, my life is great!
  - Chapter 2: God, my life is over!
  - Chapter 3: God, what do I do?
  - Chapter 4: God, you're doing more than I can see!
  - Chapter 5: God, your plans don't change even when mine do!
  - Chapter 6: God, I will do what you say!
- God's plans for us are bigger, harder, and better than the plans we typically make for our own lives.
- God is up to something bigger through you than just what happens to you.
- God called Joseph to adopt Jesus as his child so that through Jesus, God could adopt you as his child.
- Hope in the midst of our heartbreak comes from recognizing that we are adopted children of God with a loving heavenly Father who sees our suffering and has purpose for our pain. One day we will get to spend forever with Him in an existence where there is no more sickness, sorrow, or pain.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. It's the most \_\_\_\_\_ time of the year! What word or words popped into your head to fill in that blank and why?
2. When we experience heartbreak, it's easy to lose hope. What are some difficult or challenging situations you or those you love are facing right now? What do you wish God would do in those situations?
3. Which of the six chapters of Joseph's story stood out to you the most and why?
4. Why is it important to recognize that there is a difference between being a "creation" of God and being a "child" of God? What hope-giving promises can those who are children of God hold onto when they are going through challenging times?
5. The hope children of God have because of the gospel of Jesus is not that everything will be "fixed" in this life, but that God's loving presence will never leave or forsake us and that we will spend forever with him one day. How does this truth give you hope and in what ways is it still challenging to hand onto that hope?
6. Who might God be asking you to share the hope of Jesus with this week?
7. How can the members of this group pray for you in the week ahead?

***Heavenly Father, thank you for sending Jesus to this world so that through his life, death, burial and resurrection you could make a way for us to become your adopted sons and daughters. Help us to hold onto the hope that comes from knowing you and you knowing us as our Heavenly Father. Drive doubt, fear, and bitterness far from us and encourage our spirits through the presence of your Holy Spirit in our lives. We love you, Father, even when things are hard, for we know that our only true hope in this world is the hope we have in Jesus. Amen.***