

Christmas

at THE CREEK

Group Discussion Guide: A Thrill of Hope | December 11, 2022

Open with prayer and an initial reflection question (5 minutes).

Take a few minutes to acknowledge God's presence as you begin your group time. Ask Him to help your group have a good discussion and to help you internalize the Scriptures.

Then, ask: "What are some of your favorite Christmas traditions?"

Read Scripture and debrief the sermon (40 minutes).

Select a few of these questions to help you discuss through the sermon. You may even come up with a few questions that would be good for your specific group to discuss.

- Why do you think it's important to not rush too quickly into the holidays, but instead to pause and reflect on the reality of the darkness of life?
- **Read Romans 8:22-23.** What two things does Paul describe in this passage as "groaning?"
- When you look at the world, what examples do you see of creation groaning? What examples do you see of "we ourselves" groaning?
- What was the best moment of 2022 for you? The brightest spot? What has darkness looked like for you this year?
- How do you cope with dark situations? In what ways do you try to create your own light? Explain.
- **Read Isaiah 64:6, Ephesians 2:3; and Ephesians 4:18.** Why are we unable to create our own light according to these verses?
- **Read John 1:1-14; Matthew 4:16; and John 8:12.** What hope do these verses give people living in darkness? What hope do they bring you?
- What needs to be present in your life to help you continue living faithfully as a "partaker" of the Light (**Colossians 1:12**)?
- **Read Revelation 21.** What most resonates with you about our hope? How does the hope of no more darkness help you watch and wait until Christ comes again?



Christmas

at THE CREEK

Break into gendered accountability groups (20 minutes).

In this time, share vulnerably where you sense darkness in your life – it may be something going on inside of you, something happening to you, or something happening around you.

Where do you need hope right now?

Once you've finished, ask each person to share one thing that stood out to them from this exercise that they'd like prayer for. Then, pray for that person.

Finish with intercessory prayer (10 minutes).

Like each week, finish your group session with prayer. You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone's prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.