

Small Group Guide



Icebreaker

Share one thing you're hoping for this Christmas season. After everyone shares, discuss: What's the difference between "wishing" for something and having biblical hope?

Key Scripture

Psalm 130:1-7

Read the passage aloud together, then have someone read it again from a different translation if available.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Depths (Psalm 130:1-2)

1. The psalmist cries out "from the depths." What does it mean to be in a place where you cannot save yourself? Have you ever experienced such a moment?
2. Why do you think we naturally try to find hope in our own strength and control? What are the dangers of placing hope there?
3. The sermon mentioned that living with hope in our own control is "like walking on thin ice." Can you share a time when the "ice cracked" and you realized you weren't in control?

Confronting Our Goodness (Psalm 130:3-4)

4. The sermon cited a study showing 45% of Americans think they're the best person they know. Why do we tend to inflate our own moral qualities?
5. How does verse 4 change everything: "But with you there is forgiveness"? What does this reveal about God's heart toward us?
6. How does understanding that none of us "deserve" God's favor actually free us rather than discourage us?

Grounding Our Hope (Psalm 130:5-6)

7. What does it mean practically to "put your hope in God's Word"? How is this different from hoping in circumstances, people, or our own efforts?
8. Read Numbers 23:19 together. How does God's trustworthiness differ from human promises? Share an example of when God kept a promise to you.
9. The watchmen don't wonder *if* morning will come, only *when*. How can we cultivate this kind of confident expectation in our daily lives?

Living Between Two Advents (Psalm 130:7)

10. We live "between two advents" - Jesus' first coming and His return. How should this reality shape how we live today?
11. The psalmist speaks of God's "full redemption" - not partial or temporary. What areas of your life feel unredeemed right now? How does the promise of *full* redemption speak to those areas?
12. What does it look like to wait with hope in a world still filled with "darkness, death, dysfunction, and disorder"?