

Small Group Bible Study Questions. Sermon by John Fortune. Nov. 30'25:

Advent: Hope for the Humble (Luke 1:46 - 55; Proverbs 13:12)

From Brendan: "These questions are a guide. You do not have to use every question. Knowing your group, go over these questions and ask God what questions you should focus on. May God bless and guide your discussions!"

- Welcome everyone and open with prayer.

Icebreaker Question:

- What do you look forward to most about the Christmas season?

Discussion Questions. Read Luke 1:46-55 (what stands out to you?)

1. Have you ever put your hope in something—or someone—that eventually failed you?
 - What did that experience do to your heart? Did it lead to denied hope, deferred hope, or something else?
 - How might Advent invite you to trust God with that place again?
2. Read through Mary's song (the Magnificat). How does her proclamation reshape your picture of God?
 - What do you notice about *who* God sees and *how* He acts?
 - How is this different from how "power" usually works in our world?
3. Proverbs 13:12 says, "Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life."
 - Are there hopes you've pushed away, delayed, or numbed because longing felt too risky?
 - What are the ways you tend to distract or self-protect instead of bringing those desires to God?
 - How might Advent be an invitation to let those hopes surface again?
4. We heard that Jesus (*yeshua*) means "YHWH saves" and Immanuel means "God with us."
 - How do those names speak into your own fears or disappointments?
 - Where do you need to know Jesus as "Saviour" and "with you" this Advent?
5. Pastor John said, "When we embrace hope, we enter the life of the kingdom." As a group, what is *one concrete action* you will take this week to practice hope together?
 - Will you choose one person or family to bless with generosity?
 - Will you commit to pray together at a specific time each day?
 - Will you read the same short Scripture each morning this week?
 - Will you visit or encourage someone who feels forgotten?
 - Will you practice a shared fast from something that numbs hope (noise, screens, negativity)?