



HOPE SHINES THROUGH

Hope Shines Through Week 1 Group Discussion Notes

Leading Off:

What is your favorite Christmas movie?

Scripture:

67 His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied: “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a horn of **salvation** for us in the house of his servant David (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us— to show **mercy** to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant, the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to **rescue** us from the hand of our enemies, and to **enable** us to serve him without fear **Luke 1:67-74**

Discussion Questions:

As we begin a new teaching series on Hope, Pastor Chad challenged us with two powerful thoughts –

1) **Never forget your story.** We all have a story. If you’re a Christian, your story is that when the cry of your heart was “Hosanna,” Christ saved you. When you were desperately lost and hopeless, Christ lifted you up and pulled to you safety. He gave you hope and life, meaning and purpose. Pastor Chad then challenged us to “live like the hope of Christ is in us – live our lives like we’ve not forgotten our story.”

2) **Never lose sight of the unwritten stories all around us.** Because so often we forget our story, we lose sight of the unwritten stories all around us. We each have family, friends, neighbors and coworkers who are desperate and hopelessly lost without Christ. People everywhere are longing for hope – hope that “we have.” We’re called to live-out the hope of Christ – to share the message and hope of Christ to people in need.

So let’s start here – with our **story**.

1. What is your story?

- a. What events have shaped your story?
- b. Who and what has influenced your story?
- c. At what point did Christ our Hope find His place in your story?
- d. In what ways is your story still being written?

One To Grow On (This weeks growth challenge)

Have you ever written down your story? Take some time this week and give it a try. As we enter this season of Hope, it will be a reminder of where you've come and give you hope for where Christ is leading you.