

Small Group Bible Study: Why Christmas?

Despair → Hope

Main Idea: We can have hope because the future is friendly — not because we make it friendly, but because Jesus has secured it.

1. Naming Your Deepest Longing

Instead of only focusing on suffering, the sermon asked us to consider what our hearts long for that we *can't* get on our own.

What is one longing or desire in your life that reminds you how much you need Jesus to make things right?

2. Responding to Hardship

We all experience discouragement, but the sermon challenged us to pay attention to *how we respond* when life feels heavy.

When hardship hits, what is your most natural response—and what would a more hopeful, Christ-centered response look like?

3. Choosing Hopeful Practices

Hope isn't passive; it's something we cultivate through habits, rhythms, and reminders of God's promises.

What is one practice you could build into your week that would help you stay grounded in the hope God promises?

4. Seeing Your Life Through New Creation Eyes

Imagining the New Creation helps reshape how we view the problems and pressures of today.

How would your attitude or choices change if you viewed a current problem in your life through the lens of the New Creation God has promised?

5. Finding Confidence in the Son

We can trust the friendly future because heaven has already come down in Jesus — “to us a child is born.”

How does remembering the incarnation (God becoming human) strengthen your hope in the middle of struggle?

6. Living as People Who “Know the Ending”

The sermon ended with the line, “The now part is scary... but Jesus knows the ending.”

What is one concrete way you can live with hope this week—toward yourself, your family, or your community—because you trust Jesus knows the ending?