

# REDISCOVER CHRISTMAS

GOOD NEWS IN TROUBLING TIMES

HOPE | 11.29.20

## TALK IT OVER

### KEY QUOTE

"Hope is what exists before reality comes to pass."

Pastor Steve

### KEY SCRIPTURES

<sup>28</sup> Simeon was there. He took the child in his arms and praised God, saying, <sup>29</sup> "Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace, as you have promised.

<sup>30</sup> I have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup> which you have prepared for all people. <sup>32</sup> He is a light to reveal God to the nations, and he is the glory of your people Israel!"

Luke 2:28-29

<sup>24</sup> We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don't need to hope for it. <sup>25</sup> But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.)

<sup>26</sup> And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness.

Romans 8:24-26

<sup>1</sup> ...the one who formed you says, "Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; **you are mine.** <sup>2</sup> When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you.

Isaiah 43:1-2

Select 1 or 2 questions from each section of this guide to lead your group or house church in a discussion. Feel free to adjust as needed. Each section is designed to follow each video segment of the message.

#### Video Section #1: Explore the Topic

Start it Out | Goal: Get people talking

#### Video Section #2: Explore what God says about the Topic

Talk it Out | Goal: Get the group talking about scripture

#### Video Section #3: Explore what we do with the Topic

Live it Out | Goal: Choose a question to encourage next steps

Pray it Out | Goal: Lift of prayers, petitions, and praises

### Start it Out | Goal: Get people talking

- Share a "Where were you..." moment in time.
- How has COVID created uncertainty for you and your family?
- On a scale of 1-10, 1 being the lowest, where would you rank your level of hope for the future?

### Talk it Out | Goal: Get the group talking about scripture

- **Read: Luke 2:28-29**, Taking what we know about Simeon, why would Jesus' birth bring hope to Simeon and his people?
- **Read: Isaiah 43:1-2**, If comfortable describe a "deep water" or "river of difficulty" moment in your life. What did that feel like?
- Does knowing that God will be with you through difficult times give you hope? Can someone speak from personal experience?

### Live it Out | Goal: Choose a question to encourage next steps

- What is your "next step of hope today?" Meaning, what small thing can you do this week to begin or keep walking down a path of hope in your life?

### Pray it Out | Goal: Lift up prayers, petitions, and praises

- Pray together:
- Take time to share prayer requests, and spend time praying for our church, community, country, and world. Help the members of your group to feel invited and cared for.

HOPE | PEACE | JOY | LOVE