

**Dig Deeper @Home – “Deep Longings”
Complement to lesson on 11/28/21 – “Hope”**

ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. Which Thanksgiving food best reflects your personality?
2. Share a time when you had little or no hope. What was the situation and how did it resolve?

MEMORIZE – 1 Thessalonians 1: 9-10

“... how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come”

READ – Isaiah 8:11 – 9:7

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What does the Holy Spirit draw your attention to as you read these passages?
 - a. What sticks out to you?
 - b. Is anything repeated? Contrasted? Compared?
2. How do these passages bear witness about Jesus?
3. Read again 8:11-15.
 - a. What is the conspiracy that is referred to here? For a hint, check out Isaiah 7:3-9 and Jeremiah 37: 13-15)
 - b. Isaiah is told not to fear what the people fear (these conspiracies). What is he supposed to fear instead?
 - c. What does this fear look like in practice?
4. Isaiah 8:21-22 outlines a cycle of hopelessness.
 - a. With these verses, describe the cycle ... you should be able to identify at least 4 parts
 - b. When have you experienced this cycle? What got you out of it?
 - c. Perhaps you are still in the cycle. Check out Psalm 73. How does this speak to the cycle of hopelessness? And what is the answer? (Psalm 73:16)

EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY – Meditate on the Names

For Advent this year, there is a devotional at the Faith@Home Center that has us focused on various names of Jesus. But Isaiah provides a set of names in 9:2-6 for us to focus on as well, 6 of them to be exact, one for each day Monday through Saturday.

- A Great Light (v2), a son (v6), Wonderful Counselor (v6), Mighty God (v6), Everlasting Father (v6), Prince of Peace (v6)

1. Reflect on one name a day
2. What thoughts come to mind as you think of these names?
3. How have you experienced this name in your own life?
4. In what ways/areas would you like to experience this name more in your life?

SING (Suggested songs to sing. Use these, or any favorites of the gathered group, to worship Jesus!)

What Child is This? - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i3laN3DYo7Q>

O Come O Come Emmanuel - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=draHA_9MS18

O Come All Ye Faithful/We Adore You - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ol345X5dVck>

O Praise the Name - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LgBpifDpNKc>

Living Hope - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9l7llisdyMk>

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the series:

May you know and experience the hope of the LORD as you seek Him, trust Him and follow Him this week. As you go, bring the good news and proclaim hope to those where you live, work and play.