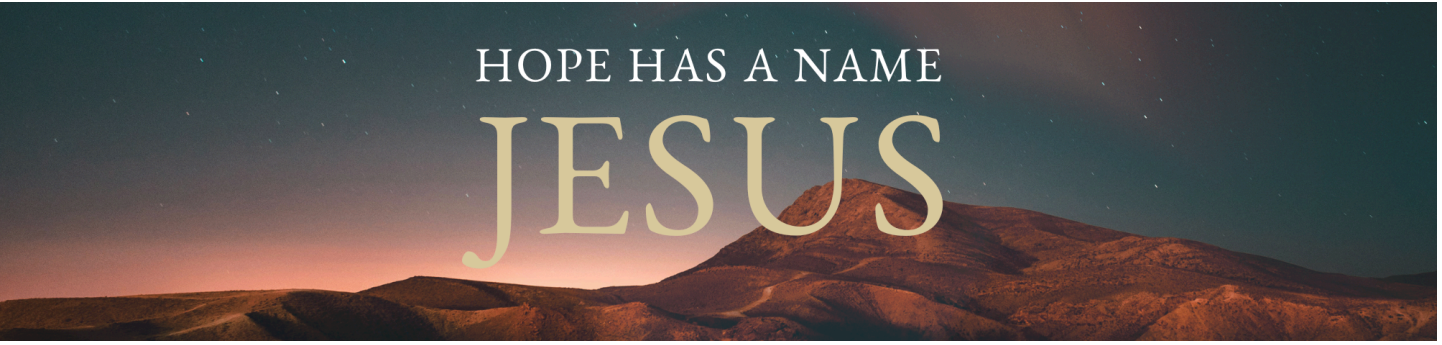




# HOPE HAS A NAME JESUS

## LEADER'S NOTES

### Week 2: Choosing Hope, Pursuing Peace

If you start with an icebreaker question, I suggest discussing an embarrassing Christmas moment—something awkward or cringy that happened during the Christmas season or on Christmas Day.

#### QUESTION 1

This first question introduces our four Christmas themes. This should not be difficult. Enjoy this discussion.

#### QUESTION 2

Question two is about Hope. This should help –

How hope impacts the believer:

- Provides strength and endurance: Hope in the Lord allows believers to face challenges with renewed strength.
  - **Isaiah 40:31** But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.
- Serves as an anchor for the soul: Hope offers stability in a chaotic world, securing the soul like a firm and secure anchor.
  - **Hebrews 6:19** We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.
- Encourages patience and joy: Hope enables believers to be patient during suffering and joyful in the midst of it.
  - **Romans 12:12** Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.
- Leads to purity: A hope fixed on God has a purifying effect on the individual.
  - **1 John 3:3** Everyone who has this hope fixed on him purifies himself, just as he is pure.
- Fulfills desires: The Bible contrasts the pain of delayed hope with the life-giving nature of fulfilled hope.
  - **Proverbs 13:12** Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.
- Motivates courageous action: Hope is not passive, but is a driving force that motivates a life of faith, love, and good deeds.
  - **Titus 2:13-14** ...looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed and to purify for himself a people for his own possession, zealous for good deeds.

### QUESTION 3

The third question shifts the focus to peace. This question asks your group to discuss what is currently causing them anxiety, frustration, or irritation. I suggest that you open up your heart; the deeper you share, the deeper the group will share. Also, have everyone share something.

### QUESTION 4

Question four introduces a cluster question. A cluster question is a set of related questions focused on a specific topic or theme. Question four asks: Do you agree that God's peace is always available? Do you sometimes lose sight of the availability of God's peace? How have you in the past accessed God's peace? The first question should be an easy yes. The second question is important because discussing losing sight of God's peace might help them realize they lose sight of it less often—so don't let them give an easy no to this second question; encourage them to explore further. You could go first again to set the tone. The third question in the cluster is also very important—how do you access God's peace? Possible answers are:

By surrendering worries to God

- **1 Peter 5:7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.**
- **Matthew 11:28 Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.**
- Action: Consciously give your worries and anxieties to God, trusting that He is in control and will carry your burdens for you.

By focusing on Jesus

- **John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.**
- Action: Seek a deeper relationship with Jesus, who is the source of true peace. The more you draw near to Him, the more His peace will be manifested in your life.

### QUESTION 5

Question five focuses on **Philippians 4:6-7**. This question pulls to focus on praying for peace by pouring out our hearts to God and becoming thankful. You should have no problems with this one.