

## **An Advent Discovery Bible Study Series**

Hope, Peace, Joy, Love

### **Week 1 - Hope**

#### **LOOK BACK & CARE**

- What are you THANKFUL for?
- How did God SHOW UP in your life this past week?
- What CHALLENGES OR STRESSES are you facing in your life right now?
- Pray for each other.
- Did you follow through on your “I will” statement?
- Who did you share your Jesus story, God’s Story or a story from the Bible with this past week?

#### **LOOK UP & DISCOVER H.O.P.E.**

**H**ear from God

- A As a larger group, READ the passages in two different Bible translations.
- In groups of 2 or 3, have everyone retell one or more of the Scriptures in their own words.

*Scriptures:*

Isaiah 9:2-7; Romans 15:3-4; Romans 5:2-5; 1 Peter 1:3-4

**O**bserve what he said

1. What STANDS OUT to you in these verses?
2. What does the passage tell us about GOD/JESUS?
3. What does this passage tell us about PEOPLE?

**P**ut it into practice

How can you OBEY (put into action) what God is showing you in this passage?  
Everyone creates an “I will \_\_\_\_\_” STATEMENT.

**E**ncourage someone

Who are you going to SHARE this story with, and what you discovered in this passage?

#### ***A Prayer for Hope***

(Pray through the prayer individually for 2-3 minutes and then pray anything else the Holy Spirit puts on your heart as a group)

God of hope, thank You that in Your great mercy You have given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. That we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand—in the hope of the glory of God...to such a degree that we can even glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.

And hope does not put us to shame, because Your love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. Remind us often that everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. Grant that we may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

## **Week 2 - Peace**

### **LOOK BACK & CARE**

- What are you THANKFUL for?
- How did God SHOW UP in your life this past week?
- What CHALLENGES OR STRESSES are you facing in your life right now?
- Pray for each other.
- Did you follow through on your “I will” statement?
- Who did you share your Jesus story, God’s Story or a story from the Bible with this past week?

### **LOOK UP & DISCOVER H.O.P.E.**

#### **Hear from God**

- As a larger group, READ the passages in two different Bible translations.
- In groups of 2 or 3, have *everyone* retell one or more of the Scriptures in their own words.

#### *Scriptures:*

Luke 2:8-14; Romans 5:1; Romans 14:19; Philippians 4:4-7; Colossians 3:15

#### **Observe what he said**

1. What STANDS OUT to you in these verses?
2. What does the passage tell us about GOD/JESUS?
3. What does this passage tell us about PEOPLE?

#### **Put it into practice**

How can you OBEY (put into action) what God is showing you in this passage?

Everyone creates an “I will \_\_\_\_\_” STATEMENT.

#### **Encourage someone**

Who are you going to SHARE this story with, and what you discovered in this passage?

### ***A Prayer for Peace***

(Pray through the prayer individually for 2-3 minutes and then pray anything else the Holy Spirit puts on your heart as a group)

God of Heaven, at the first Christmas Your angel announced, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests.” Thank You for the peace Your Son Jesus promised, not as the world gives, but willing, deep, lasting, and abiding peace. Thank You that, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Grant that, as far as it depends on us, we may live at peace with everyone, making every effort to do what leads to peace. So, let the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus and the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, now and forever more. Amen

## **Week 3 - Joy**

### **LOOK BACK & CARE**

- What are you THANKFUL for?
- How did God SHOW UP in your life this past week?
- What CHALLENGES OR STRESSES are you facing in your life right now?
- Pray for each other.
- Did you follow through on your "I will" statement?
- Who did you share your Jesus story, God's Story or a story from the Bible with this past week?

### **LOOK UP & DISCOVER H.O.P.E.**

#### **H**ear from God

- As a larger group, READ the passages in two different Bible translations.
- In groups of 2 or 3, have *everyone* retell one or more of the Scriptures in their own words.

#### *Scriptures:*

Psalm 5:11; 16:11; John 15:9-11, 16:20-22; Philippians 1:4-6; 1 Peter 1:8-9

#### **O**bserve what he said

1. What STANDS OUT to you in these verses?
2. What does the passage tell us about GOD/JESUS?
3. What does this passage tell us about PEOPLE?

#### **P**ut it into practice

How can you OBEY (put into action) what God is showing you in this passage?

Everyone creates an "I will \_\_\_\_\_" STATEMENT.

#### **E**ncourage someone

Who are you going to SHARE this story with, and what you discovered in this passage?

### **A Prayer for Joy**

(Pray through the prayer individually for 2-3 minutes and then pray anything else the Holy Spirit puts on your heart as a group)

Heavenly Father, let all who take refuge in You be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Please fill me with joy in Your presence, with eternal pleasures at Your right hand. Grant that as Jesus promised, His joy may be in us and our joy may be complete.

Fulfill His promise that, though we may grieve, our grief will turn to joy, and no one will take away our joy. Teach us to always pray with joy, and grant us such love and faith in You that we may be filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy. Amen

## **Week 4 - Love**

### **LOOK BACK & CARE**

- What are you THANKFUL for?
- How did God SHOW UP in your life this past week?
- What CHALLENGES OR STRESSES are you facing in your life right now?
- Pray for each other.
- Did you follow through on your “I will” statement?
- Who did you share your Jesus story, God’s Story or a story from the Bible with this past week?

### **LOOK UP & DISCOVER H.O.P.E.**

#### **Hear from God**

- As a larger group, READ the passages in two different Bible translations.
- In groups of 2 or 3, have *everyone* retell one or more of the Scriptures in their own words.

#### *Scriptures:*

Romans 5:6-8; Mark 12:28-34; Luke 6:27-28; Galatians 2:20

#### **Observe** what he said

1. What STANDS OUT to you in these verses?
2. What does the passage tell us about GOD/JESUS?
3. What does this passage tell us about PEOPLE?

#### **Put it into practice**

How can you OBEY (put into action) what God is showing you in this passage?

Everyone creates an “I will \_\_\_\_\_” STATEMENT.

#### **Encourage** someone

Who are you going to SHARE this story with, and what you discovered in this passage?

### **A Prayer for Love**

(Pray through the prayer individually for 2-3 minutes and then pray anything else the Holy Spirit puts on your heart as a group)

Loving God, You demonstrated Your love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Teach me to love You with all my heart and with all my soul and with all my mind and with all my strength, and to love my neighbor as myself.

Teach me even to love my enemies, and do good to those who hate me, as Jesus commands. Help me to remain in Your love. Help me to do everything in love, as I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Amen