



TALK IT OVER

Our Talk It Over is designed to prompt insights, questions and dialogue based on the life experience of each participant. Using these in a group setting after hearing the message is similar to the practices of the early church in Israel. Choose just one or a few of the questions to consider this week.

WARM UP:

What is something you hoped for as a child that felt like the biggest thing in the world at the time?

DISCUSS:

1. Hope changes as we grow older. How have your hopes evolved through different seasons of your life?
2. Isaiah speaks of the Savior as if he had already arrived. Why do you think God gives hope in advance rather than waiting until the problem is solved?
3. How does the idea that Jesus is our Wonderful Counselor, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace speak into the darkness or pressures we carry today?
4. When you are in a “dark valley,” what voices tend to influence your thinking more — fear or God’s promises? Why?
5. Where do you currently need God’s hope to break through fear or despair?
6. What helps you remember that God is working even when you cannot see progress yet?
7. Who in your life needs a reminder of God’s hope right now? What is one way you can share that hope with them this week?
8. Christmas can be either a cycle of stress or a celebration of true hope. What is one intentional change you can make to focus on the hope of Jesus this season?



APPLY:

- Identify one Bible verse about hope (e.g., Isaiah 9:2, Psalm 23:4, Psalm 42:11, John 14:2-3, Matthew 6:21, 1 Peter 3:15).
- Write it down and place it somewhere you’ll see daily this week — on your mirror, phone wallpaper, or car dashboard — as a reminder that God’s hope is bigger than the darkness.

PRAY:

God, thank you for being the source of true and lasting hope. When fear rises and darkness feels overwhelming, remind us of your promises. Help us to trust that you are working even when we cannot see it yet. Give us eyes to see your light and hearts willing to share that hope with others. May the presence of Jesus — our counselor, our peace, our Savior — shine brightly in us this Christmas and beyond. Amen.