



Christmas Lost?: wk1 Hope

Introduction: This Christmas will be one like most of us have never experienced before. The pandemic has caused so much loss – life, health, jobs... all of our celebrations will be affected in some way. For so many people who love Christmas and all of the traditions that have come with it, there looms a question: Is Christmas Lost?

Discussion Questions

1. What are some of your favorite Christmas traditions? How are those things changed this year or are they?
2. Advent is both a time of celebration and anticipation. The idea is that Jesus has come, and will come again. When you think about Christmas and the way you celebrate it-does it cause you to anticipate Christ's return?
3. **Read Malachi 4:5-6 & Luke 1:17** Luke ties together the last words of the Old Testament with the announcement that John had come to prepare the way for Jesus. Why was that angelic news to Zechariah so important?
4. Read Luke 1:46-55 & Luke 1:67-79 Why do you think that both Zechariah and Mary wrote songs about God for what was happening in their own lives?
5. What is the connection between Hope and Worship? How can one spark the other or vice-versa?
6. Zechariah's song talks of redemption as already having happened, even though God had yet to fulfill the entire promise. How is that a picture of hope? If hope is confidence in someone's future behavior based on previous competency-how can we have hope today?
7. In what ways can you make worship a priority in your life even when we have to be physically apart from the church building this season?

Shaping Your Mind – *Luke 1:68* “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them.

Moving Forward – We live in the “already but not yet” of his Kingdom. At Advent, we utter “kingdom come” prayers of our own, waiting expectantly and faithfully for Jesus' return. In that way, this is a season of both **celebration and anticipation**.