

Unto Us

Hope For Everyone

Week Three | Everlasting Father | 12.12-13.2020

Grow Deep Conversation Questions: Use these questions to help you process the message in your personal time of study or with your group. Time suggestions are based on a 90-minute group gathering.

Message Recap: Christmas can become a habit that we think we understand. Sometimes our need for traditions trumps what the tradition represents. Christmas is about Jesus. When Jesus came, He came **unto us** to be our: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, **Everlasting Father**, and Prince of Peace. What if we put down our expectations and experienced the Jesus that actually lived and changed everything?

» Opening (2-3 minutes)

- Introductions - this is especially important if this is your first meeting and if there are new members
- Housekeeping - clarify expectations
 - **Announcements:** These are in your Community News email. **Please read and communicate! Encourage participation!**
 - Remind your group that this is a confidential meeting
 - **Remember, there may be many thoughts and views. Please remain kind and respectful during conversations.**
- Pray - open your time together in prayer

» Introduction (12 minutes)

- Ice-Breaker: Think of something you hoped for as a child? Did you get it? Talk a little about how you felt.
- Digging Deeper: What are some of your hopes for 2021?

» Observation | Read Isaiah 9:6; Luke 1:46-56 (12 minutes)

- What are your initial reactions to these passages? What do you find challenging? Are you encouraged by any of these verses? Why?

» Key Principle | Hope for everyone, everywhere. (12 minutes)

- Where are places people put their hope in when life gets tough? Why can't this hope last?

» Everlasting Father | Reference Isaiah 9:6 (12 minutes)

- Does thinking of Jesus as an Everlasting Father make it easier or more difficult to find hope in him?

» Forgiveness of Everyone | Reference Luke 1:49-50 (12 minutes)

- In Mary's song, it seems like everyone will have an opportunity to receive blessings. What are some of the prerequisites for blessing in this passage?
- Why do you think it is so difficult for some people to receive the forgiveness that Jesus offers to them?

» Worship Happens Everywhere | Reference Luke 1:46-47 (12 minutes)

- What are ways we can worship even in the middle of difficult seasons in life?

» Next Steps and Prayer | (15 minutes)

- How can you share hope with someone else this Christmas?
- Close by praying for each other to slow down this Advent season to spend some time anticipating and reflecting on the birth of Jesus.