

Crossroads Covenant Church
sermon-based small group discussion guide for December 2, 2018

Getting to Know Us- building intimacy in your shared group

1. What do you enjoy about meeting in small groups to review the Sunday sermon?
2. What do you enjoy most about gathering together with the whole congregation on Sunday mornings?

Getting into the Word- digging deeper into the message

1. Before Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was given selectively: to a specific person, for a specific time, to perform a specific task. Read Gabriel's message about John in Luke 1:14-17 and discuss what John's filling of the Spirit from the womb teaches about God's task for him.
2. Read Zechariah's response to Gabriel in Luke 1:18, and then skip ahead a bit and read Mary's response to Gabriel in Luke 1:34. Both asked questions after receiving their messages. How were their questions different, so that Zechariah was rebuked while Mary was not?
3. The first candle of Advent is the candle of hope. What was the hope of the Jews at the time of John's birth? Read Romans 8:22-25; 15:4; and 15:12-13. What is our hope as members of the Church since the time of Pentecost?

Application- sharing personal experiences

1. Two of the ways that Jews of this time could fall away from keeping hope in the Lord were by taking things into their own hands instead of waiting on the Lord (the zealots) or by finding comfort in the minutiae of religious law and tradition (the Pharisees and scribes). Do you lean towards either of these two groups when struggling with difficulties? What brings you back towards God?
2. Have you had a prayerful request that you have been bringing to God for most or all of your life? What motivates you to continue to pray and wait with hope?