

From Gloom To Glory
Isaiah 9:6-7

1. Could you share a significant moment in your life when you received distressing news? What was the nature of the news, and how did you respond to it emotionally?
2. In what ways does the anticipation of the Messiah's arrival, particularly the Second Advent portraying the glorious return of Jesus, bring hope into your life amid the challenges and uncertainties of the present world?
3. Can you elaborate with your own words why it is true as the speaker said that our paramount need is God's forgiveness of our sins? (To understand the context of the question, please read Isaiah 9:1-3; Matthew 4:15-16; John 8:12 and Ephesians 5:8).
4. How does recognizing Jesus as the "Wonderful Counsellor" affect the decisions we make in areas like relationships, career, and personal growth?
5. Do you affirm the belief that Jesus is the Mighty God, holding control over our circumstances? Can you recount a personal experience when you felt God's intervention in a challenging situation, and if so, please share this experience with the group?
6. How does the concept of Jesus as the "Everlasting Father" redefine our understanding of God's love, forgiveness, and constant presence in our lives?
7. Considering Romans 5:1-2 and 6:23, and recognizing Jesus as the Prince of Peace, do you believe we can experience God's peace as His children amid the chaos of the world? If so, how can we incorporate and practice this peace in our everyday lives?

From Fear To Faith Hebrews 11:1-3

1. Ask each other, "How's your soul?"
Be honest as we are here to journey with each other as a Life Group, spurring each other on in this journey of faith!

2. How has God revealed Himself to you this week?
God often works in supernaturally natural ways. Are there things that happened this week that surprised you in a good way? Perhaps God was orchestrating something for your benefit.

- Read the entire chapter of Hebrews 11
3. Which Bible character in Hebrews 11 do you like? If possible, read the account of that character together as a Life Group.

4. In what area(s) of your life are you able to place your faith in God, your Creator?
In what area(s) do you find it difficult to place your faith in Him? Why do you struggle with these area(s)?

5. All the men and women of faith listed in Hebrews 11 held God's words in the highest esteem and they acted on the things God instructed them to do. God, our Creator, formed all of us with a purpose. Share with your Life Group a time you decided to follow God's leading and what was the outcome.

If a sharing encouraged you in your current life stage, write it down so you know that if God can do it for them, God can do it for you as well! Let our faith arise as we hear the word of God in our Life Groups.

From Hopelessness to Hopefulness

Luke 2:25-35

1. What makes you (or others) feel a sense of hopelessness?

Read Luke 2:25-35

2. What was Simeon waiting for and why was he described as “righteous”? (See “righteous” (Gk *dikaïos*), is used on Simeon as is also used of Zechariah and Elizabeth in Luke 1:6 and of Joseph in Matt 1:19).
3. What does Simeon mean when he refers to Jesus as “a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel?” (Luke 2:32)
4. Ps Jeremy suggests that *Hope comes through Longing*. Do you agree? How can longing for something bring hope?
5. What are the promises that God has given us (as (i) individuals, (ii) our community and (iii) humanity and (iv) creation) that brings hope even amidst darkness?
6. Are you hoping for something in this advent and Christmas season? Would you share it with one another and pray that God will grant you patience and obedience in your waiting.

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