



Cured by Christmas

The Chapel
Advent 2024
Dave Gustavsen
December 1, 2024

WEEK 1 – THE CURE FOR HOPELESSNESS

OPEN IN PRAYER

WORSHIP: Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus [LISTEN HERE](#)

GET STARTED: (Choose 1)

- Share YOUR STORY about how you have experienced hopelessness and how Christ has brought healing.
- When you're feeling hopeless, what's one thing that helps lift your spirits?

READ & DISCUSS: Matthew 1:18-25

Read the passage and discuss the following:

Q1 - What is the "big idea" of the passage? _____

Q2 – Joseph likely wanted to believe Mary, but her story seemed impossible by logic and cultural norms. How do you trust God when faith and reason don't align? _____

Q3 - Viktor Frankl noted that losing hope in the future leads to decline. How does the hope we find in God's promises help us face seemingly hopeless situations? How can Joseph's response encourage us in dark seasons? _____

Q4 - Joseph learned that the child Mary carried would be called Immanuel, meaning "God with us." How does knowing that God is with you bring hope in your current situation? How can this truth sustain you through uncertainty or difficulty? _____

Q5 - Jesus brought hope to people by showing them that their future could be radically different, regardless of their past. How has your connection with Christ changed the way you view your future? How can this hope help you face life's challenges? _____

APPLY: After hearing from the angel, Joseph took action despite lingering doubts. What is one step you can take this week, even if you feel uncertain, to demonstrate your trust in God's ability to bring hope and healing into a difficult area of your life?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Have group members write down a personal area where they (or a loved one) feel hopeless (or discouraged) on slips of paper and place them in a bowl (anonymously). When everyone is done, pass the bowl around and have each member draw a random slip. Pray as a group, inviting everyone to pray for hope in the specific situation written on the strip of paper that they drew.