

Wish List: The Best Gift Ideas for Christmas 2020
Week 2: Give Hope
December 6th, 2020

OPENING PRAYER

Have someone in the group invite God's Holy Spirit into our presence. Pray for your encounter with God's Word. Ask God to open your heart and mind to some new understanding and especially to a new way of life.

SMALL GROUP GUIDELINES

~Safe Group	~Silence	~Sharing
~Confidentiality	~No Cross Talk	~Self-Aware
~Listen	~No Fixing	~"I" Statements
~Pause	~No Rescuing	~Handle Conflict Biblically

"GETTING TO KNOW YOU"

Go around the room and briefly share your answer to the following question:

What traditions do you and or your families have around decorating the Christmas tree? (Certain day/time, special ornaments, etc.)

INTRODUCTION

As we step into week 2 of the Advent season and our ***Wish List*** series, our focus is going to remain on ***Giving Hope***. This has been a year that we truly need hope, don't we? This is the season of hope and yet many tend to feel hope-less. Advent reminds us of the hope we have in Jesus Christ. Hope is #1 on our Wish Lists and the good news is that it is one of the gifts He gives!

This week our narrative comes from Mathew 5:13-16. Listen to the hope that Jesus gives in this passage.

Bible Storytelling: Matthew 5:13-16

- **Tell the Story:** This week's story will be told by one of our group members.
- **Examine the Story:** Looking at Matthew 5:13-16 in your Bible, what did the storyteller add or omit in their retelling? Does anything else stand out to you?
- **Read the story:** Have someone in your group read the passage of scripture as everyone else follows along in their Bible.

DISCUSSION:

Go around the room and share from your heart, remembering the group guidelines.

- **What does salt do? What is required of salt in order for it to be effective?**
- **If you're willing to share, in what ways have you allowed the challenges of this year to lose some of your saltiness?**
- **Jesus is the Light of the world but in verse 14 He tells us what?**
- **Light spills into a room when you open the door, in what ways can you allow the light of the world to "spill" into the lives of others?**
- **Pastor Paul talked about the fact that we may not always FEEL Hope, but you can HAVE Hope and then you can BE HOPEFUL...describe your journey with this statement.**
- **Spend some time in prayer as a group...pray specifically for your group to be Light and to BE Hopeful this Advent season.**