



## Key References:

### **1 Peter 1:6-7 (NLT)**

<sup>6</sup> So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. <sup>7</sup> These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

### **Romans 15:13 (NLT)**

<sup>13</sup> I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

### **Psalms 23:1-6 (NLT)**

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need. <sup>2</sup> He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. <sup>3</sup> He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name. <sup>4</sup> Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me. <sup>5</sup> You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings. <sup>6</sup> Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.

### **Isaiah 40:29-31 (ESV)**

<sup>29</sup> He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. <sup>30</sup> Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; <sup>31</sup> but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Reflecting back on the past weekend's sermon, was there anything you heard for the first time, that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

## **1 – THE SOURCE OF HOPE**

Mike reminded us in his message that our hope does not come from systems of the world, but from the Lord. **As you look back on this year, what are some things in your life you are thankful for and gave you hope?**

Read 1 Peter 1:6-7 and Romans 15:13. **Choose one truth found in these verses that you find hope in. Share with your Connect Group why it gives you hope.**

## **2 – FINDING HOPE IN TROUBLED TIMES**

Our hope is found only in the Lord, who is our shepherd and comforter. Read Psalm 23. These verses include no less than eleven promises about God's provision for us. **Take a moment to re-read the psalm and identify as many promises as you can find. Which one do you need to be reminded of the most in the weeks ahead? Why?**

## **3 – THOSE WHO WAIT ...**

The Hope with find in the Lord transforms us. Worldly hope promises to give me something new, but biblical hope promises to make me into something new. Read Isaiah 40:29-31.

During his sermon, Mike reminded us that there is a correlation between the time spend waiting on the Lord and resting in his presence, and having our strength renewed. **As we move into this Christmas season, what specific steps do you need to take in your life to make space so that you can 'wait on the Lord'?**

**Pray together that each one in your Connect Group would find hope and strength in the weeks ahead as you wait on the Lord.**