

## UNWRAPPING CHRISTMAS | Unwrapping Hope

### Luke 1:11-16

#### Discussion Questions

Pastor Liz said, "In order to receive the fullness of a gift, you have to use it." Can you think of a gift that you have used a lot? Why do you use it so much?

The gift we are unwrapping this week is the gift of "hope". If the question is not, "Where can we find hope, but Who can we hope in?", how would you answer that question? And explain what you mean by that.

The Christmas story has something to teach us about how we can live with hope even, during our struggles, and when God feels distant.

Read Luke 1:5-7. What were Zechariah and Elizabeth struggling with in this passage? Why were they unable to embrace hope?

Read Luke 1:11-16. God is always working, even though we don't always see it. How was John the Baptist "evidence of God's work" during a time when things seemed hopeless for Zechariah and Elizabeth?

This couple went from being unable to embrace hope to seeing their son be an instrument of hope. Read Zechariah's words in Luke 1:76-78. In what way do you think that John the Baptist was an instrument of hope?

John ushered in hope from heaven when he prepared the way for Jesus. Through his birth, life, death and resurrection, Jesus overcame every obstacle. How does that help you when you face obstacles in your life?

As Luke was calmed by the assurance of seeing his child in preparation, how might we benefit from knowing that God is always working? Can you think of an example when you saw God working during a time when you needed hope?

There are times when we are unsure of God's presence. We can't see any movement in our circumstances, and we wonder if God is there or if he cares. How does the Christmas story help you to embrace hope when God seems to be silent? If using the gift of hope helps us to receive the fullness of the gift, how might you use that gift this week?