

Media



✔ Prepare in Advance

Facilitator: In advance of the session:

- Retrieve, review, and have ready the videos and music listed (links are provided on this session's webpage).
- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.

✔ Intro

As a sort of icebreaker, ask each person to name something they hope for this Christmas season. Explain that this is the first Sunday of Advent which focuses on Hope. After everyone has shared, read the brief passage and then watch the *Bible Background Video* together.

✔ Face the Darkness

Warn your group that all of the clips will be from *The Lorax* today and they should prepare themselves for large mustaches, horrible animated haircuts, and a spontaneous song. Show the clip entitled "Nothing Will Stop Me" and then get discussion going with some of the questions below.

- What did it take for the man to finally see that things were actually rather bad?
- Not knowing what the Lorax's 'powers' might be, do you get the impression that the Lorax could stop the man from cutting down all the trees.
- What are some of the dark things in our world that you feel like people just don't often see or pay attention to? (You may want to write these answers down for the closing prayer later)
- What do you think it will take before people finally see these things as real problems?
- Why do you think it's hard for us, as individuals and as a society, to face the darkness that's before us?
- What's the balance between facing the darkness and being too pessimistic to function?

✔ Promise

Watch the "Plant the Seed" clip.

- What is the hope or promise in this clip?
- How does the following quote relate to you: "That's not just a seed anymore than you are just a boy."

- What was Jeremiah's promise in today's passage?
- What hope can we derive from this promise?
- As Christians, how does the promise of Jesus' coming (or second coming) provide hope in the darkness that we face?

✔ Community of Hope

Finally, show the "Let it Grow" clip and close with these final questions.

- How does the hope of the seed grow in this clip (all puns intended)?
- What if no one else in the town had spoken up and it was simply the boy and the little guy arguing back and forth? Who do you think would have won? Would anything change?
- What prevents us from telling others about the hope we find in Jesus?
- How do we keep the hope we talk about from seeming cliché or Hallmarky?

✔ Outro

End your session by praying for hope. Name each of the darknesses your group mentioned and pray for hope in each case. Ask God to make the hope of Christmas real to everyone in your group.

By **Rory Naeve**

Church Websites

Get FaithLab to develop your new church website and help support FaithElement.

faithlab.com faithlab