

Create



✓ Prepare in Advance

Facilitator: In advance of the session:

- Provide several half sheets of paper for each of the create writers and visual artists.
- Provide pens/pencils and paper for the writing option or keep an ongoing journal for participants to return to or take home each week.
- Provide and keep a collection of art supplies for each week including but not limited to: crayons, chalk, color pencils, markers, glue, tissue paper, colored construction paper, paint brushes, watercolors, finger paints, scissors, and a variety of scrapbooking paper and old magazines.
- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.

✓ Breath of God

Ask a volunteer to read Jeremiah 33:14-16. Then, show the *Bible Background Video*.

Say: In Jeremiah 33:14-16, we are reminded that God shows up even in the darkest of times and there is hope for the future even when our present shows only pain. As we begin the first week of Advent, this is an important message – when we are broken, God is present to bring us to wholeness. When the darkness seems overpowering, God is light. Today, we will explore the words of Jeremiah 33:14-16 to see how we can have hope in the midst of rough times.

Ask: When is it hard for you to see God in your life?

Invite each participant to choose either the Writing or Visual approach. Spend the next 20-25 minutes with that experience.

✓ Create- Writing

Invite participants to reflect on Jeremiah 33:14-16. On several half sheets of paper, ask participants to write down times of darkness in their lives. On other papers, ask participants to write ways that God shows up in the midst of hard times.

✓ Create – Visual

Invite participants to reflect on Jeremiah 33:14-16. On several half sheets of paper, ask participants to create a visual of darkness in their lives. On other

papers, ask participants to visualize ways that God shows up in the midst of hard times.

✓ Share

Call the group together. Ask participants to hang or display their creations together as a large group creation. Consider displaying

Ask: How can we remain faithful during difficult times? What can we do better to recognize and be the light to others?

Close with prayer.

(After the session, consider leaving the group's creation on display throughout advent and allow participants to add to it throughout the week or find a way to share the creations of the group- post pictures on Facebook, on a church website, or in a portfolio/frames kept either in a public place in the church or in your group's special gathering place.).

By Noelle Owen

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