

# Mystic



## ✓ 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).
- Provide paper, pens, bowl, large candle.
- Print the handout with the lyrics to “What If” by Eric Whitacre and David Norona (a link is 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.

## ✓ Explore

Have someone read Isaiah 60:1-9 out loud and show the *Bible Background Video*.

## ✓ Sharing Activity

- Frame the time by inviting people to acknowledge God’s presence with the group. (e.g. you might want to light a candle to symbolize God with us)
- Invite people to write down their greatest current hopes (one hope per piece of paper), fold the paper and put it into the bowl (note: let people know that these thoughts will be shared with the whole group)
- After everyone is done writing, pass the bowl around and invite each person to take a paper from the bowl and read out loud what is written on it.
- Read out loud the text again. Ask people to share how they hear these words in light of the hopes that have been voiced. (encourage people to be open and honest about offering their thoughts – positive and negative)
- Play the clip of the song “What If” (give people the lyrics to look at while the song plays).  
**Say:** Hope invites us to choose to live, act, speak, think differently. If you were to accept hope into your life situations and desires, in what ways might your living patterns change? What would you do differently? What thoughts would you latch onto? What would you ask God for?
- Invite people to share their reflections

## ✓ Closing

Close with prayer. If feasible, have the group make a circle, with the bowl held in the middle (or touched) by everyone as you pray and offer these hopes to God. You might want to make this a completely silent prayer, with someone saying a simple “Amen” after everyone has raised his/her head and opened his/her eyes.

**By Joy Yee**

## Church Websites

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

faithlab.com

faithlab