

Create



✓ **Prepare in Advance**

Facilitator: In advance of the session:

- Provide pens/pencils and paper and envelopes for the writing option.
- 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.

body. Consider inviting groups to perform during a special gathering or worship service.)

By Noelle Owen

✓ **Breath of God**

Ask a volunteer to read Isaiah 43:1-7. Then, show the *Bible Background Video*.

Say: In last week's session, we discussed hope and the role that hope plays in our lives. In today's session, we will discuss how God is present with us even when it is hard to hold onto hope. In the midst of difficulty and hard times, the words of Isaiah 43:1-7 remind us that God is present with us in our suffering. God has been with us since the beginning and God will be with us throughout eternity.

Ask: When is it hard for you to see God's presence?

Invite each participant to choose either the Writing or Visual approach. Ask participants to get in small groups with at least one writing and one visual participant. Spend the next 20-25 minutes with that experience.

✓ **Create- Writing and Visual**

Ask each group to read and reflect on Isaiah 43:1-7 as a small group. Then, invite participants to work together in their group to create a short play or skit that demonstrates God's presence in the midst of difficult times.

✓ **Share**

Call the group together. Allow participants to perform their creation for the whole group.

Ask: Where do you see God's presence?

Close with prayer.

(After the session, consider finding a way for the groups to share their creation with the larger church