



## Sermon Discussion Guide

### [Advent HOPE](#) - Hans Erchinger-Davis

November 27, 2022

#### Hook - Getting to know one another

- How is everyone doing this week? Is your calendar filling up for the month of December? As you look ahead, what fills you with hope and anticipation? What causes you a sense of anxiety or a feeling of being overwhelmed?
- How does your approach to preparing for Christmas flow out of family traditions or how you were raised as a child? If you were to ask God how He would have you prepare, do you think He would have you change anything?

#### Book - Scripture

- Read the passages and discuss to understand **what the texts are saying**:
  - **Isaiah 9:2, 6**
  - **Luke 1:1 - 33**
  - **Luke 2:1 - 16**
- 1. Take some time to reflect and talk about each name by which Jesus is referred to in Isaiah's Messianic prophecy. (Isaiah 9:6)
- 2. Who was Herod, the king of Judea, and what do we know about him? (Luke 1:5)?
- 3. Who were Zechariah and Elizabeth? Describe the times they were living in.
- 4. Why was the righteousness of Zechariah and Elizabeth all the more commendable?
- 5. Who was John the Baptist, and what was his role as foretold here?
- 6. Did Zechariah believe the angel? How is Mary's encounter with the angel similar to or different from Zechariah's?



## Sermon Discussion Guide

### [Advent HOPE](#) - Hans Erchinger-Davis

November 27, 2022

#### Look - Connections to our world today

- This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.
  1. Going back to the names of the Messiah in Isaiah 9:6, how might each of these be a source of comfort or even doubt to the people who are experiencing homelessness or great hardship? (Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace)
  2. As we read Luke's gospel, the global rescue plan was about to start. In fact, it had already been in progress since the fall. How was what unfolded likely different from what the people of Israel were expecting?
  3. How has Hans' depiction of the rough, smelly, teenaged, nightshift shepherds, to whom the good news was announced, changed how you view people or who might be worthy of your attention this Christmas season?

#### Took - Personal Application

- This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say, or to do this week.
  1. How has Hans' sermon describing the people on the streets of Bellingham and the characters in the Christmas account changed your way of thinking about hope or how you should pray in any way?
  2. What is something God has called you to that you may be doubting that you are qualified to do? Share your dreams and pray for one another to put your hope in God who can do more than we ask or imagine.

#### Time of Prayer