



**2020 ADVENT SERIES**  
**"THE HOPE OF HIS PRESENCE"**

**SPEAKER: RANDY REMINGTON**  
**DATE: DEC 6, 2020**

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

*These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. They can help you understand and apply the teaching.*

**BIBLICAL TEXT(S) + MESSAGE SUMMARY:**  
**LAMENTATIONS 3:19-26; PHILIPPIANS 4:8; PSALM 90:1-2;**  
**PSALM 73:26; HEBREWS 10:37**

In the second message of our Advent series, Pastor Randy Remington focuses on the importance of hope. The coming of Christ in the past gives us the hope that God will fulfill his promises and there will be a future coming where all things will be set right. In the midst of the waiting, how do we maintain hope?

Using the text of Lamentations 3:19-24, Pastor Randy shows us two ways that we maintain hope. We continue to call to mind what God has done for us, his faithfulness, and his goodness. Then we say to ourselves who God is. We remind ourselves that God is our portion, that he is enough. By doing this, we can continue to hope, no matter our circumstances.

**LEAN IN:** *These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. When you hear the word "hope" what comes to mind?
2. What is your favorite Christmas song?
3. When was the last time you had to wait longer than you wanted?
4. What example or story stood out to you in Sunday's sermon? Why was it significant to you?

**LOOK DOWN:** *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. In Lamentations 3:19-20, how would you describe the writer's circumstances and feelings at the beginning of this passage?
2. What does the writer call to mind in Lamentations 3:19-24? What does this "calling to mind" bring about?
3. What promise is made in Lamentations 3:25-26? What does the writer say is good?
4. What do we learn about our thought lives from Philippians 4:8?
5. What do you learn about who God is from Psalm 90:1-2, Psalm 73:26, and/or Hebrews 10:37?

**LOOK OUT:** *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. How would you describe the mood of our culture today? How is it similar or different to the circumstances and mood the writer of Lamentations has?
2. How do the people in your life "call to mind" things from the past? How have you seen this used for good? How have you seen it cause harm?

**CONTINUED:**

2. What are some examples of God's faithfulness in the Bible, history, and in the life of your group/family/church? What do these examples teach us about God?
3. How have you seen self-talk ("saying to yourself") positively and negatively impact people in the world around you? Is the self-talk described in Lamentations as encouraging or challenging?
4. Pastor Randy said that God being our portion means that he is enough for us, he will sustain us and he makes us secure. What do you think this looks like in the life of a Christian today? How should the life of someone who has God as their portion look different from the lives of those who aren't relying on God?

**LOOK IN:** *These are questions that help you consider how to apply the teaching personally. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. On a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 being "full of hope" and 1 being "completely hopeless", how would you rate yourself? Is there anything from this passage/sermon that gives you more hope? If so, what?
2. Do you tend to "call to mind" things from the past that make you grateful or do you tend to dwell on the negative? What might you do to cultivate an attitude of gratitude in your life?
3. How has God been faithful to you in your own life? How does hearing about the faithfulness of God in other's lives help to give you hope?
4. How do you speak to yourself? How does your own self talk compare to how the writer of Lamentations writes about speaking to yourself? What might need to change in your self talk?
5. Where in your life is it challenging for you to accept God as your portion, as enough? How does this passage/message encourage or challenge you?

**LIVE IT OUT:** *These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. What is one thing you can do this week to "call to mind" God's faithfulness in your life?
2. What can "say to yourself" this week to remind yourself that God is enough and he is worth waiting on?
3. If you are having a hard time fostering hope in your life right now, how can your family/friends/group pray for you? If there's anything they can do to encourage you and support you, let them know!