

Advent Week 1 — HOPE

Small Group Bible Study Questions

Fear Not, Zechariah (Luke 1:5–25, 57–80)

1. Opening Reflection — Setting the Stage

1. What words or images come to mind when you think of *Advent hope*?
 2. How does the theme “*Fear Not*” connect with your own longings or uncertainties as you enter this Advent season?
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2. Reading the Text: Luke 1:5–25, 57–80

Read the passages aloud.

Ask: What stands out to you in Zechariah’s story today—something you’ve never noticed before?

3. Zechariah’s Long Wait

1. Luke describes Zechariah and Elizabeth as “*righteous*” and “*blameless*,” yet they live with deep disappointment (1:6–7).
 - How does their story challenge our assumptions about faithfulness and blessing?
 2. In what ways do long seasons of waiting test or reshape your understanding of hope?
 3. Where have you experienced unfulfilled longing that affects your spiritual life?
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4. “Do Not Be Afraid” — The Angel’s Message

1. Why do you think the angel tells Zechariah, “*Do not be afraid*” (1:13)?
 - What fears might be behind Zechariah’s initial response?
2. How can fear distort hope or limit our ability to see God’s work in our lives?

3. If a messenger from God were to tell you today, “Do not be afraid,” what situation would come to mind?
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5. Zechariah’s Doubt and God’s Grace

1. Zechariah asks, “*How can I be sure?*” (1:18).
 - What does this reveal about his internal struggle between hope and skepticism?
 2. How does God respond—with silence, discipline, but also promise.
 - How have you experienced God’s grace even in seasons of doubt or spiritual “silencing”?
 3. Why might God allow a season of quietness or waiting in our lives? What hope can grow there?
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6. Hope Fulfilled — And Transformed

1. When John is born, Zechariah’s first words are a Spirit-filled prophecy (1:67–79).
 - How does silence prepare him for a deeper, clearer hope?
 2. Read Luke 1:78–79.
 - How does Zechariah describe the hope God brings into a fearful world?
 - What phrases resonate most with your life right now?
 3. How does Zechariah’s journey show that hope is not passive but formed in the tension between fear, doubt, and faith?
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7. Application — Living Advent Hope

1. What fears are currently challenging your hope or faith?
 2. Where do you sense God inviting you to trust Him more deeply during Advent?
 3. What practical step can you take this week to nurture hope—in your home, workplace, or community?
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8. Closing Prayer

Invite group members to name situations where they long to hear God say, “*Fear not.*” End with a prayer for courage, renewed hope, and attentive hearts during Advent.