



**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Do you think it's easy to "miss Christmas"—the true meaning and impact of it?
2. What do you hope for? What do you think non-believers hope for? Why do you hope? Why do non-believers hope? What do you think ancient Romans hoped for?
3. Consider this piece of a Christmas song about Bethlehem. Is it overdramatic to say the hopes of all the years are met in Bethlehem the night that Jesus Christ was born? Why or why not?

*"The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight."*

—O Little Town of Bethlehem

**Then**

3. Read Psalm 130:1-3. What is the psalmist doing/feeling?  
Read verse 4. What changed? Why?  
Read verses 5-6. What is the psalmist doing/feeling now?  
Read verses 7-8. What is the psalmist's advice? What reason does he give?
4. The suicide rate for Mesa County is 32 per hundred thousand. In suicide prevention training, participants are told the number one thing suicidal people need, and don't have, is hope. How does this change the way you read Isaiah 40:31?
5. What is the Lord's title in Jeremiah 14:8?
6. What does Lamentations 3:21-26 say about the benefits of hoping in the Lord? How is this different from just hoping in the universe, in life, or in people?

## **Now**

7. Read Acts 26:6-8. Why was Paul on trial? Did he consider it worth it? How do you know?
8. In Romans 5:1-5, what are we hoping in? What are we rejoicing in? Where does hope come from?
9. Read Romans 8:23-25. How do we hope? What are we hoping in? What does the hope do for us?
10. In Romans 15:13, what is God's title? Where does our hope come from?
11. According to 1 Corinthians 15:19-20, in which life should we have hope? Why? What does this have to do with Jesus?
12. Read Galatians 5:5. What do we hope for? How do we hope?
13. Read Ephesians 1:18. What is the hope God called us to? How does this impact you, that God called you to hope rather than to fear?
14. Read 1 Thessalonians 1:3. What does hope inspire? Where is it from?
15. What is our hope in Titus 1:2? What is our hope in Titus 2:13-14? Why are these things to hope for?
16. What is the command in Hebrews 10:23?
17. Based on your readings, what is our hope? Where does it come from? Why do we have it? What does hope help us do?

**TAKEAWAY:** Celebrate Jesus as the hope of the world.