



DEC 13TH

THE *Light* IS COMING

**WHERE LONGING &
SUFFERING WILL BE NO MORE**

ISAIAH 35:1-10, PSALM 146:5-10, LUKE 1:46B-55, JAMES 5:7-10, MATTHEW 11:2-11

START TALKING | ASK A QUESTION TO GET YOUR GROUP THINKING.

- In 2020, what is one thing you've longed to do but unable due to COVID?
- Think back to birthdays and Christmases past. What is a gift that you have longed for?

START THINKING | ASK A QUESTION TO GET YOUR GROUP THINKING.

- In order to find hope in the present, Isaiah encourages his people, and us, to look forward to the future when God brings restores our world totally.
- Read Isaiah 35:1-4 Isaiah paints a picture of a desert made green in God's restored future. Does springtime bring hope for you? Is it another season? Is it an outdoor activity like gardening or something else?
- How specifically does a restored future bring you hope in your longing, pain and suffering today?

START SHARING | CHOOSE A QUESTION TO CREATE OPENNESS.

- Read Isaiah 35:5-8 & Matthew 11:5
- Written 700 years before Jesus arrives, Isaiah points the way to Jesus, the one who brings pockets of heaven, healing and wholeness, wherever he goes
- What are some stories you remember about Jesus healing others?
- What are specific ways we can bring pockets of heaven with us this week?

START PRAYING | BE BOLD AND PRAY WITH POWER.

- We deal with our longing, our pain, and our suffering to God in prayer, praying honestly, openly and often.
- How has God changed your attitudes in prayer?
- Join together and pray Father, we thank you for sending Jesus at Christmas, the beginning of the end of a world broken in sin, evil and death. Help us to find hope in your certain future, to have hope in living our days mixed with healing and pain. May your Holy Spirit guide us to where we can bring a bit of heaven this week. Amen.

START DOING | COMMIT TO A STEP AND LIVE IT OUT THIS WEEK.

- Commit to keeping your eyes open for opportunities to bring a pocket of heaven to someone this week
- Commit to increasing your prayer time by one minute
- Dive deeper into longing for Jesus at Christmas with this reading plan: <https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/13352-longing-for-jesus>