

## STUDY GUIDE WEEK 2 - HOPE IN OUR SUFFERING

**Primary Passages:** Isaiah 43:1-4, Matthew 1:22:23, and Luke 1:26-38, 46-55 and 2:1-7

*O come, Thou Day-Spring  
Come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
And death's dark shadows put to flight  
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, o Israel*

*“Any one thinking of the Holy Child as born in December would mean by it exactly what we mean by it; that Christ is not merely a summer sun of the prosperous but a winter fire for the unfortunate.”*

**-G.K. Chesterton**

### LIFEGROUP STUDY GUIDE:

**Read and Recap:** Have someone read **Isaiah 43:1-4, Matthew 1:22:23, Luke 1:26-38, 46-55 and 2:1-7** and recap the highlights from this week's sermon.

**Read Isaiah 43:1-4.** Why does suffering tend to make us feel isolated from God and other people? How does this promise in Isaiah confront our assumptions about suffering?

- Are there any specific types of suffering that you frequently experience during the holiday season? Are there any other ways you are suffering right now?

**Read Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:22-23.** Immanuel means “God with us.” How have you seen evidence of God's presence in your life?

- How does remembering times God has provided for us in the past (particularly in the gospel), encourage hope in our current suffering?

**Read Luke 1:26-38 and 46-55.** How does Mary's response - both her questioning and rejoicing in truth - challenge/encourage us in our response to suffering?

- Are there any friends of ours who are suffering right now? How can we offer them gospel hope and relief in the midst of their pain?

**Pray** that we would be a people bold enough to bring whatever doubts we have to God and His people.

**Pray** that through Jesus we would learn to hope and rejoice no matter what our circumstances.