



WEEK 4: ROOM FOR HOPE

OPENING PRAYER: God, we invite you in today, where you already are, among us. We make room in our hearts, in our minds, in our conversation for you to meet us and to change us. Amen.

Quote: “Hope is an anchor dropped into the future. We feel you pulling us toward it once again.” – Kate Bowler

BREAKING THE ICE: As we near Christmas, where do you see hope? Where do you need hope?

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:

Read Matthew 1:18-25

1. Why did Joseph resolve to divorce Mary quietly (v. 19)? Name some of the factors that may have influenced his decision.
2. What prompted Joseph to make a different choice? How do you think he moved from the dream to the new decision? What did that require?
3. What are some of the risks or potential consequences Joseph accepted by taking Mary as his wife? What were the some of the blessings?

NEXT STEPS:

1. Where do you see or need hope for a different future today? What “impossible” decisions do you need to make to grab hold of that hope? This week, pray for God’s guidance to help you see new possibilities.
2. What are some practices that can help to cultivate openness to God’s direction and new possibilities? Which of these could you try this week?
3. Are there ways you are being called to support or advocate for someone vulnerable, potentially at risk to yourself? What worries do you hold about doing that? What blessings might God be offering to and through you?

CLOSING PRAYER: God-with-us, we thank you for this space. Help us to go out now and live spacious lives, making room for others, especially those who need sanctuary in our broken our world. Amen.

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<p>Week 1: Room, When Pressure is Closing In</p> <p>Sunday – Joshua 2:1-21</p> <p>Monday – Psalm 124</p> <p>Tuesday – Psalm 42:1-5</p> <p>Wednesday – Psalm 42:6-11</p> <p>Thursday – Isaiah 29:19-20</p> <p>Friday – Luke 1:46-50</p> <p>Saturday – Luke 1:51-55</p>	<p>Week 4: Room for Hope</p> <p>Sunday – Matthew 1:18-25</p> <p>Monday – Hebrews 11:1-3</p> <p>Tuesday – Isaiah 11:1-5</p> <p>Wednesday (Christmas Eve) – Luke 2:1-7</p> <p>Thursday (Christmas Day) – Luke 2:8-20</p> <p>Friday – John 1:1-14</p> <p>Saturday – Psalm 146:5-7</p>
<p>Week 2: Room in Your Heart</p> <p>Sunday – Mark 1:1-8</p> <p>Monday – Matthew 3:8-12</p> <p>Tuesday – Luke 3:10-17-10</p> <p>Wednesday – Isaiah 40:1-5</p> <p>Thursday – Daniel 9:17-19</p> <p>Friday – James 4:1-10</p> <p>Saturday – Isaiah 35:8-10</p>	<p>Week 5: Refuge and Sanctuary</p> <p>Sunday – Matthew 2:1-18</p> <p>Monday – Matthew 2:19-23</p> <p>Tuesday – Jeremiah 31:15-17</p> <p>Wednesday – Hebrews 11:8-10</p> <p>Thursday – Psalm 72:1-4</p> <p>Friday – Isaiah 9:2-7</p> <p>Saturday – Revelation 21:1-6</p>
<p>Week 3: Room in Relationships</p> <p>Sunday – Luke 1:24-45</p> <p>Monday – Romans 15:4-7</p> <p>Tuesday – 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10</p> <p>Wednesday – Hebrews 2:14-18</p> <p>Thursday – Matthew 25:34-40</p> <p>Friday – 1 Samuel 23:15-18</p> <p>Saturday – Exodus 4:10-16</p>	