

Cross of Hope Making Faith Connections Small Group Ministry

December 1, 2024

Advent – The Space Between

Space to Wonder

15 Minutes

Gathering, Hospitality, Check-in with Each Other...

Where did you see/experience God this week?

What leaves you in great wonder?

Opening Prayer

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (ELW p18)

45 Minutes

Discussion Questions:

Read again Luke 21: 25-36

What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?

What is challenging or confusing as you read/hear it this time?

God's world of forgiveness, love and mercy has come in Jesus, and yet the fullness of this salvation is still not yet here. In this space between this 'both now and not yet,'

How does this passage invite us see this as a space to wonder?

What encouragement in faith do you take from this passage?

Why is it good news that Jesus' words will not pass away?

How do vv. 34-36 encourage you to a life of devotion and faith?

How are these verses challenging?

Where do you find faith, hope, and love in this passage?

Read again 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13

What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?

Where do you hear Paul's thanks, joy and blessing for the people of this church?

How are you encouraged to abound in love for the people of the church/for all?

What strengthens your heart in holiness?

How would you live differently if you were certain that Christ was coming tomorrow?

Read again Jeremiah 33:14-16

What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?

What does it mean 'The Lord is our Righteousness'?

How do we see God's justice and righteousness in Jesus?

20 Minutes

Prayer Requests and Prayer

10 Minutes

Wrap Up and Get Ready to Leave Session: Conversation about details for the next session...place, day, time, and volunteer Host. Remember...bring a Bible, watch the Sunday worship and sermon in preparation for the group session.

Maximum amount of time...90 minutes. Time used for each component is flexible depending on the agreed upon needs of the group for that session.