



## Discussion Guide for “The Diptych of Hope”

### *Christmas is for Dreamers Week 2*

The Christmas season is all about hope, but for a lot of folks these days, hope feels like a pipe dream. The prophet Isaiah offers two pictures of hope – one that feels impossible, and one grounded in history. He reminds us that when we hope for what’s right, our hope is not in vain because God is with us!

#### **Scriptures for Further Reading**

[Isaiah 11:1-10](#)

[Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19](#)

[Matthew 3:1-12](#)

[Romans 1:4-13](#)

#### **Passage for Sacred Reading:**

Sacred Reading is a way of reading Scripture with an eye toward transformation, not just information. You can find a [step-by-step guide here](#). The passage for this week’s sacred reading is [Isaiah 11:1-10](#).

#### **Questions for Discussion**

1. What does the word ‘hope’ mean for you?
2. What gives you hope these days? What makes it hard to hope?
3. Review Isaiah 11:1-10. What are the two images in the prophet’s diptych? Why was each hard for his listeners to believe in?
4. How was Isaiah’s vision grounded in historical reality? Why is that important in shaping our hope?
5. What image would be in your diptych? What is that thing that’s grounded in history and shaped by faith that you’re hoping for this Advent season?
6. What does it look like for you to pray with that hope this Advent season?