



## Discussion Guide for “The Christmas Branch”

### *O Christmas Tree Week 1*

At the beginning of the Advent season, we ask what hope looks like. In a world that craves peace on earth and goodwill for all people, a world that is far from those dreams, how do we hope? Jeremiah invites us into his model faithful presence in a hurting world - one that invites us to look for God right where we're hurting. That's hope.

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

Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; Luke 21:25-36; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

[Click here](#) to read all scriptures

#### **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 [Psalm 25:1-10](#).

#### **Questions for Discussion**

1. What does the word 'hope' mean to you? Do you consider yourself a hopeful person?
2. What was Jeremiah's context? Why were his words courageous?
3. In imagining what God would do next, what did Jeremiah get wrong? What does that tell us about how we hope for the future?
4. What about the world makes you feel hopeless right now? What gives you hope?
5. What does it look like for you to hope in this next month?