

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

A Weary World Rejoices - Week 1



CONNECT

Spend some time checking in. What are highs and lows since you last met? How can your group members pray for and support each other this week?

GROW

- What makes you weary these days? Have you experienced this type of weariness before, or is it new? Why or why not?
- Read Matthew 3:1-6, Mark 1:4, and Luke 3:3 (see back). John's message was an invitation to repent, "to turn" or "to let go." What do you need to let go of?
- What does the word "vulnerable" mean to you? How is vulnerability a gift, or as author Brené Brown says, "the birthplace of love and belonging"?
- This Christmas, where are you being invited to move from ME to WE? Where in your life are you feeling out of balance and unsteady, and what would it look like to have a stronger base? How would that bring you hope?

PRAY

God of grace, Sometimes life is hard and we are weary. You sent your son into this world so we can find hope, peace, love and joy. In your son's name, Amen.



BIBLE READINGS

Matthew 3:1-6

1 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea **2** and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” **3** This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’” **4** John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. **5** People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. **6** Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

Mark 1:1-4

1 The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, **2** as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way”— **3** “a voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’” **4** And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Luke 3:1-3

1 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— **2** during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. **3** He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

