

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

A Weary World Rejoices - Week 2



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

- If you were given a wish today, what would you wish for? What things have you wished for throughout your life?
- What seems to *take peace away* in your life? When you're wishing to *find peace*, where do you typically look?
- Read Luke 1:26-38 (back). What do you notice in the story?
- Read John 14:27 (back). What does it mean to you that peace doesn't come in the absence of problems but in the promise of God? How will that change your perspective on situations where you've hoped for peace?
- When have you looked for peace but realized that it didn't come in the way you expected? Where has God brought peace to those situations?

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

Luke 1:26-38

26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, **27** to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. **28** The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. **30** But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. **31** You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. **32** He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, **33** and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" **35** The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. **36** Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. **37** For no word from God will ever fail."

38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

John 14:27

27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

