

# One BRMC Small Group Study

## There Is Hope

### Leader's Guide

Please note that this study guide accompanies the pulpit sermon on 27 December 2020. The suggestions below are not model answers but to help guide your study.

Scripture Passage:

Luke 2:22-40

Context:

This is the last Small Group Study of 2020. Instead of the usual Bible study, let us gather for a more reflective and contemplative session. It is good to have some time to process the things that have happened. Life moves so fast that we have no time to deal with any issues or emotions that have built up over the year. So, let us take this session a way to slow down and truly assess our lives so far.

Today, we will first look back over 2020 and share the struggles and blessings that occurred. Then we will look forward to 2021 and share our hopes and prayers for the next year. Finally, we will end the session with prayer. Make yourselves comfortable and prepare your hearts to be open and honest.

The sermon presented us with four points:

1. There is hope in waiting
2. There is hope in worship
3. There is hope in salvation
4. We hope through the Holy Spirit

We will use these three points to guide our time of reflection.

Introductory

1. What is something that made you smile and laugh in 2020.
  - Begin today's session with something light-hearted to break the ice. These first two questions are designed to help ease the group into the deeper questions later. Feel free to skip these.

2. What is something you learnt that you never knew before?

### Reflection on the past year

3. What have you been waiting for in 2020?

- Share things that you have yearned for. It does not necessarily have to be something serious. It could be something trivial that you really want. Perhaps you are waiting on a new job, or a home, or even a new frying pan.

4. How have you been waiting on the Lord?

- Do not feel pressured to give "correct" answers. None of us are perfect. And many of us would rather wait on our own desires. But as Christians, we should also remain devoted to the Lord and wait on him to hear his voice and follow his commands. Just like how Simeon and Anna waited their entire lives just to see Jesus, it is important for us to know that Jesus is worth waiting for.

5. What role does worship play in your life?

- Many of us see worship as the songs that we sing during Sunday service. How have these songs allowed you to worship? Worship is also more than just singing songs of praise. It also includes things Bible study and personal devotions and prayer to God. Do these routine things have a place in your life? Joseph, Mary, Simeon, and Anna all showed that they were routinely worshipping God every day in various ways. These include praising God and fasting.

6. How have you been worshipping God in 2020? Are there areas in your life that do not reflect worship to God?

7. What are some areas of opposition you have faced over the last year?

- Simeon prophesies that Jesus will be "a sign that is opposed" (Luke 2:34). Even today, many oppose Jesus and his church. As followers of Jesus, we should expect opposition too. We may face opposition in life from various areas. However, God's grace sustains us even in the midst of trial.

8. How have you come to cling more closely to God and the hope of salvation in Him?

- There is hope in Christ. Even though it is the end of the year, it is never too late to turn to him. His salvation is freely given to all and he desires for you to receive it. As we cling to Christ, we will renew our hope for the new year.

## Looking forward to the New Year

9. What are your hopes for next year?
  
10. How will you allow the Holy Spirit to direct our lives to Jesus, our greatest hope?
  - As Christians, we have the Holy Spirit to guide us in our lives. Ultimately, he points us to Jesus, our greatest hope.

## Prayer

11. Write down your hopes and prayers for the coming year. Share these with one or two others and make a commitment to pray for each other over the next year. (It should be mutually agreed from the start that these are shared in confidence and not to be divulged to others.)