

# **THE HOPES & FEARS OF ALL THE YEARS**

*we met in Thee tonight.*

DISCUSSION GUIDE

# WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Welcome to community group! We believe that people come to faith and grow in their faith when they get to spend time reflecting on God's Word, and also spending time with other Christians. That's what we're hoping for tonight. As we get started, here are a lot of things happening in the broader life of the church starting in the new year:*

## • Theology Labs: Wednesdays in January

Our Theology Labs are designed to be short-term, focused opportunities for topical study, discussion, and reflection. Meant to supplement and support weekly worship and community groups, this round of theology labs will happen once a week on 4 Wednesdays in January from 6:30-8p beginning on January 8th (while our community groups take a break and relaunch in February). The Registration deadline is January 3rd @ noon. There are 4 labs: Beautiful Orthodoxy - Gospel Change; Faith & Work; How to Read the Bible - Gospel of Mark; & The Common Rule.

## • Women's Daytime Bible Study

Our winter term of daytime Bible study is coming up starting Friday, January 10th and we'll be studying 2 Samuel. It happens weekly on Friday mornings from 9:15-11a. The registration deadline is December 29th @ noon.

## • Early Morning Readings & Prayers

New City women, join us on Friday mornings for an early morning women's group. We'll be using the church's weekly Readings and Prayers and the Field Guide for Daily Prayer. No childcare provided. Registration deadline is December 29th @ noon.

## • Intro to New City: Saturday, January 11th

Intro to New City is a seminar designed to help you get to know the church a little better. Intro to New City is a pre-requisite to membership at New City, however, attending the seminar does not commit you to membership. It's something we hope all regulars at New City will experience and if nothing else you get some free food and books! Registration deadline is January 3rd @ noon.

## • Women's Quarterly Dinner: January 18th

Women, we would love for you to join us on Saturday, January 18 for our first Women's Quarterly Dinner of 2020! Registration deadline is January 10th @ noon.

## • Missional Motherhood: February 8th

New City Moms of all ages and stages! Join us for the next quarterly event to celebrate Christ by engaging and encouraging mothers of all ages as we seek Biblical direction in living intentionally as mothers. Our speaker will be Gina Sanders, director of community relations for Eve Center of Cincinnati. Gina will be discussing the subject of "Catching Uncomfortable" - identifying anxieties, resolving conflict, and improving communication. Registration deadline is January 31st @ noon.

# King

(2 Samuel 7.1-17)

*Open up with a prayer for your time together: giving thanks for the community God has given us, asking for encouragement amongst one another, and for God to be honored, etc.*

**OPENER:** What's your favorite Christmas treat?

## STUDY/DISCUSSION

*In the season of Advent we're using a line from a Christmas carol to explore the meaning of Christmas. In "O Little Town of Bethlehem" it says, "The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight." We're going to be talking about how Jesus is the culmination of the hopes and fears of all the years. Last week we looked at things through the lens of "Priest." This week we're discussing "King."*

>> **READ** >> **2 Samuel 7.1-17**

1. What are the promises God makes to David through Nathan?
2. What aspects of the promises do you think were fulfilled through the sons of David? What things were not?
3. Read Luke 1:31-33. What echos do you hear from 2 Samuel 7? What does this tell you about the significance of the Christmas story in the first century? For today?
4. What things compete for Jesus' kingship in your life? In our city? In the world?
5. What is one thing that needs to be displaced from the place of King in your life? What specifically can you start doing to let Jesus be King?
6. How does this verse from *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus* challenge us to reflect on the message of Jesus as King @ Christmas? What seems out of place or askew from how we typically approach Christmas?

*Born Thy people to deliver, Born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all sufficient merit, Raise us to Thy glorious throne.*

7. How is the Kingship of Jesus good news for your neighborhood? What does it look like to live as a citizen of the Kingdom alongside your neighbors?
8. What is *one specific step* you can in your journey with Jesus as King this week?

## PRAY

Take some time and pray together. Focus on Jesus as King and on prayers for his kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven.