



Week Three

Leaders Notes

If your group is meeting this Christmas season, please note we have set up the guide differently. Our encouragement to you is to use this time to be together and celebrate. If you'd like to make today more reflective, below you will find some questions tied to this week's talk and additional questions that are not tied to the talk. Regardless of what questions you use, the goal here is to help your group enjoy a meaningful, reflective conversation.

Opening Prayer

God, thank you for bringing us together in friendship. Help us use this time to hear from you and to connect with one another in meaningful ways. Amen.

Options One — This week we heard a talk about the favor of God from our guest speaker Scott Williams. Read Luke 1:34-38 (NRSV).

- We often experience the favor of God more when we intentionally focus our eyes on God and open our hearts to God. Tell us about some of the ways you have experienced the favor of God.
- This week Scott William said, "Often those who put all they do in God's hands will experience God's hands in all they do." In your own words, what do you think it means to put something in God's hands?
 - In what areas of your life are you putting things in God's hands?
 - Are there areas of life you need to grow in your capacity to put things in God's hands? If so, tell us what makes this idea hard.
- Experiencing the favor of God and knowing how to put things in God's hands often comes with an invitation to trust and follow God's lead. In what ways have you grown in your capacity to trust and follow God's lead this year? Tell us a little bit about that process.

Option Two — If you'd rather look at more general questions, here are a few reflective questions to consider.

- What are two or three things from this year that you are thankful for?
- What is one thing that happened this year you desire to experience healing in the year to come?
- What is a prayer or hope you have for next year?

Closing Prayer

God, you know what we have been through this year, where we are now, and where you desire to lead us. Help us to say 'yes' to your freedom and your love today and in the year to come. Amen.

Additional Resource

If you are looking for additional questions for your group time or to simply encourage your group to stay connected in this season, take advantage of our Advent Prayer Resource you can find online (advent.eastlakechurch.com), on our daily eDevotional, or on the EastLake Network app.