



# WEEKLY SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

## *Hope in the Tension*

**John 16:33**

### EXPLORING THE SERMON

- What did you hear?
- What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

### VERSES FOR MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

*“I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage: I have conquered the world!”* **John 16:33**

Jesus spoke these words to His disciples as they were frightened and confused about what was about to happen to Him. Jesus was speaking of the future, knowing they needed to be reassured about what was to come after He was gone. We, unlike the disciples, have the advantage of knowing how the story ends.

*As a people who live between the resurrection and reconciliation of all things, we endure struggles and often do not feel joyful or peaceful. What are some practices and reassurances that can help us have this hope of which Jesus speaks, in our present reality?*

Having hope means to remember and persevere. We can have hope in the tension because we know that God gives us a life in which we always have something to look forward to—because we know the end of the story. Two ways in which we can have hope is through remembering and practicing gratitude.

*Discuss ideas and practices that can help us remember God’s faithfulness, through being in scripture, and in your own story.*

*One of the greatest gifts we can give ourselves is gratitude, because it is a foundation of hope and joy in our lives. We challenge you to get into the practice of recognizing how God is at work in your life by identifying things daily for which you can be grateful.*

**Prayer:** *Dear Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for how the story ends. We ask for your guiding hand to learn how to be people who live with hope in the tension. Help us to recognize how You are at work in our lives and to live with an attitude of gratitude. **Amen.***

