

HOPE WITH US | WEEK #06

Prickle-ly Perch Ahead! | December 17th

A CHRISTMAS PRELUDE OF SORTS

In the beginning, _____ the birth stories was not essential to following Jesus.

Today, taking the birth stories _____ is essential to following Jesus.

WHAT'S THE ISSUE ANYWAY

Sometimes the _____ are more than we bargained for!

WHAT WISDOM DOES MARY'S STORY OFFER US?

Mary must have had _____ of all the places she would go! (Luke 1:26-38)

Mary started to feel the _____ of the assignment. (Luke 2:33-35)

DON'T MISS THIS!

Hope is the _____ gift for imperfect people stuck in the _____ - _____.

HOW CAN I LIVE A HOPE-FUELED LIFE?

Intentionally replace your "I can't" with "_____."

Intentionally replace your "What if?" with "_____?"

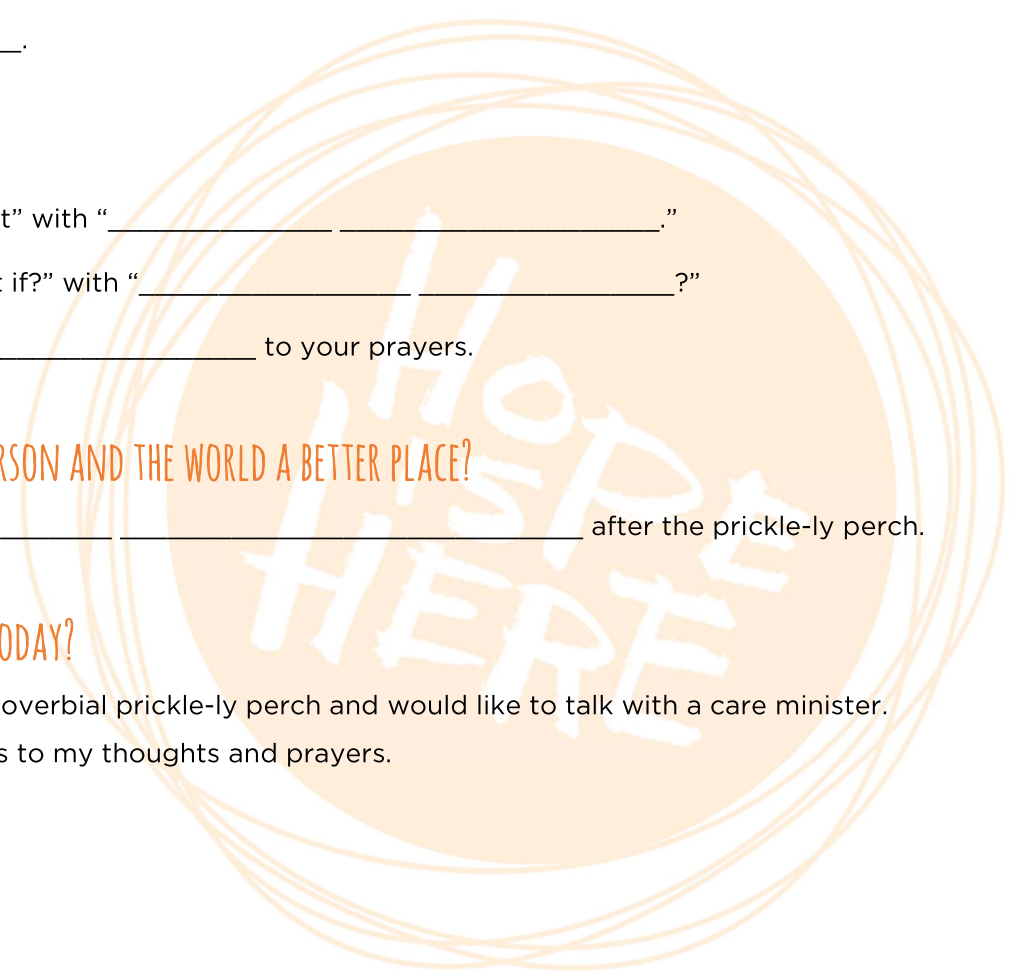
Intentionally add your _____ to your prayers.

HOW DOES THIS MAKE ME A BETTER PERSON AND THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE?

Hope-fueled people find _____ after the prickly perch.

WHAT IS GOD INVITING YOU INTO TODAY?

1. I feel like I am stuck in the proverbial prickly perch and would like to talk with a care minister.
2. Add some words and actions to my thoughts and prayers.



THOUGHT PROVOKING QUESTIONS:

1. How do you personally approach the birth stories of Jesus in the Bible? Do you tend to interpret them literally, metaphorically, or a combination of both?
2. This week's talk references "Oh, the Places You Will Go" by Dr. Seuss. What resonates with you in the message of that book, especially regarding the unpredictability of life's journey and the need to adapt when faced with challenges?
3. Reflecting on Mary's story, the angel tells her, "For nothing will be impossible with God." How do you interpret and apply this statement in your own life when faced with seemingly impossible situations?
4. Can you relate to moments of self-doubt or feeling unprepared for the challenges life presents? How do you find strength in such moments?
5. How do you understand the balance between prayer and action in bringing hope to your life and the lives of those around you?
6. This week Ryan suggested intentionally replacing "I can't" with "We can" and "What if" with "What now." How can these intentional shifts in mindset contribute to new beginnings after the "Prickle-ly Perch" moments in life?

