



## Life Group Work Sheet

Isaiah 49:1-13

December 8, 2013

### Getting to Know Each Other

1. What is your favorite part of the Christmas season? Does your family have any fun traditions as a part of Christmas?

### Into the Bible

Read Isa. 49:4-5.

2. As Pastor Kurt mentioned in his sermon, these verses speak of Jesus himself and the hardship that he went through during his earthly ministry. What we see here is that Jesus expresses hope in the midst of his despair and the dark times.
  - a. How is Jesus able to express this hope during such bleak circumstances? What does this teach us about how to relate to God during our own hard times?
  - b. Our culture sees self-sufficiency (being completely in charge of our own lives) as a virtue, but it only takes one cancer diagnosis or lost job to shatter that illusion. Think of a hard time from your past. Where did you place your hope and trust during that time? In yourself? In those around you? Your bank account? In Christ himself?

1. These texts tell us that Jesus persevered through hard times because his "right was with the LORD" and his "recompense [was] with God" (v. 4). In the next verse, we see that Jesus was "honored in the eyes of the LORD" and that his "God [had] become [his] strength" (v. 5). How does this "audience of one" help us remain focused during hardship?

Read Heb. 12:1-6.

2. What do these verses (esp. vv. 1-3) tell us about our hope during difficult times?
3. How can these verses help you during your next 'dark season'?
4. Take a moment and think of one friend or family member who is going through a difficult time right now. If they are a Christian, what is one way that you can encourage their faith in the Lord Jesus this Christmas season? If they are not a Christian, how can you speak truth into their life about the hope that is found in Christ?