

TREES LIGHTS
& PRESENCEDISCUSSION
QUESTIONS

- Share a story about a time when you did something because you wanted to feel special or you wanted to stand out and be noticed. What happens internally for you when you feel special and when you feel you are not special?
- Together out loud, read **Isaiah 9:6-7**. What phrases or words do you connect with most? Share your thoughts about God's "zeal" to initiate Christmas.
- When you think about experiencing God's presence at Christmas (or even during the whole Christmas season), what has been your experience of that? What has prevented you from it? What has helped you live in God's presence?
- What is one vulnerable thought you have about your own self-worth or significance that you usually find easier to keep working to fix rather than allow God to meet? How might a renewed awareness of God's presence change things for you this Advent season?
- We learned that "zeal" not only refers to a fervent desire, but also to a jealousy...a dedication that cannot tolerate a rival. Have you ever thought about God that way? Share your thoughts about what this might mean for you and God.
- There was an invitation to say some "Nos" and some "Yeses" this season as a way to reclaim space so you can be more attuned to God's presence. Share your ideas for how you can apply these:
 - Say no to an invitation.
 - Say no to a tradition that is no longer life-giving.
 - Say yes to making yourself available to sacred moments.

If it's helpful, tell your group how they can hold you accountable to these.

- We said, "Christmas is the Father's whisper: *I am here and you are special.*" Close your time by sharing what you want to receive from this sentiment and/or praying for each other to be able to experience God's presence this Christmas.