

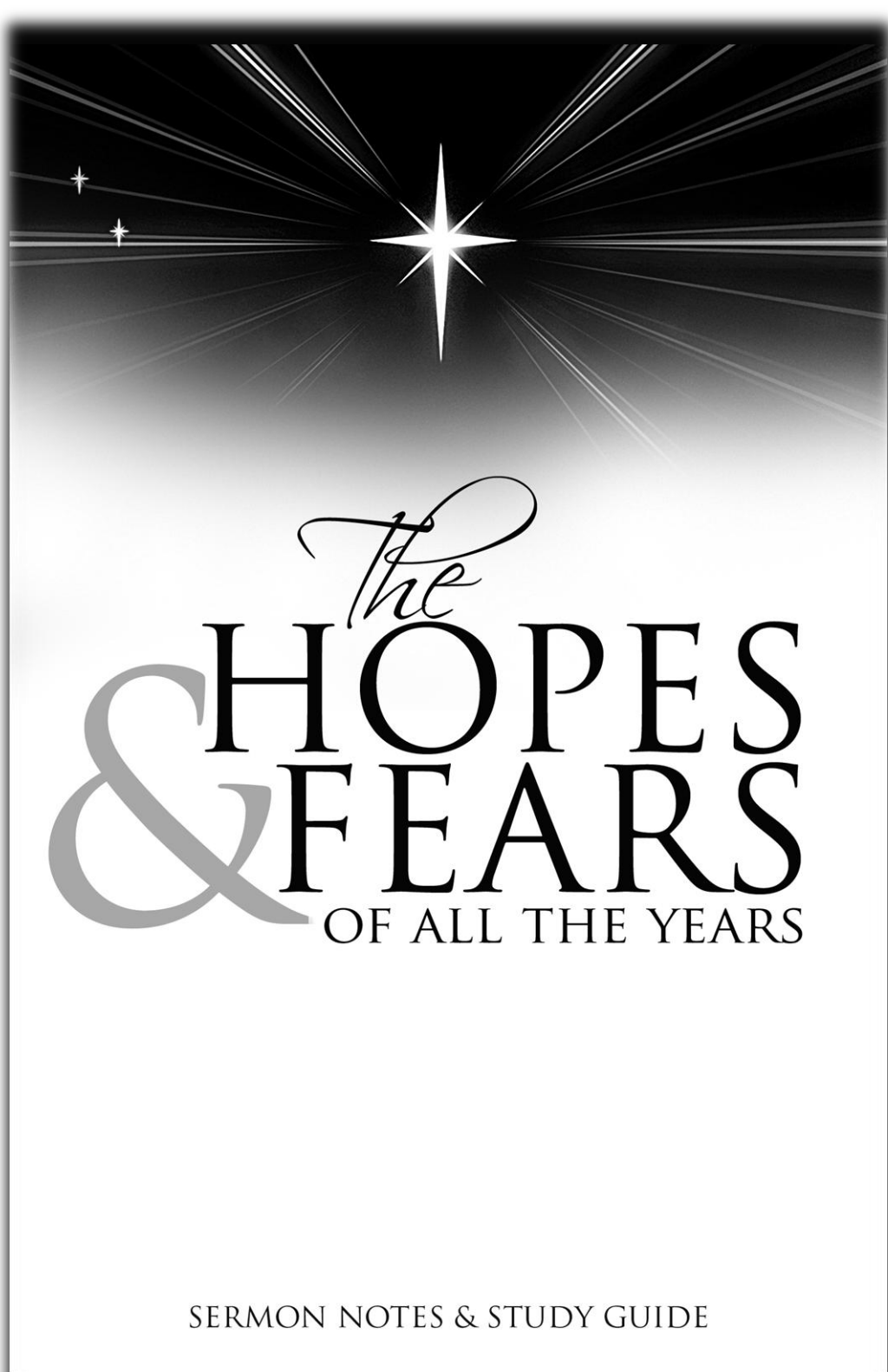
Talk it over...with your friends, family, or Growth Group.

Talking through the ideas presented in Sunday's message helps us apply God's word to our individual lives. These questions are designed to help you put His words into action in your life this week.

- In our post 9/11 world, fear is common. As you think about our country, what do you feel is the most common fear for Americans today? On a more personal note, what are you afraid of?
- In what ways do you think the events of the first Christmas address the real fears that we have? If you were trying to explain to a friend how the hope of the gospel counters the fears you deal with, how would you describe that? What words would you use?
- Joe mentioned that when we think about the mind-boggling reality of Jesus' birth we are faced with a choice: we can accept it, reject it, or water it down. What are some examples of the ways that you see that playing out in our world today?
- Take a minute and be honest with yourself. Which of those three options best describes your response to the story of Jesus' birth? What questions has today's sermon raised that you feel like you need to explore? What do you feel like God is challenging you to do with what you heard today?

Some next steps: Here are some things you can do this week to dig deeper:

- Spend some time going back through your notes from this morning. As you do that, stop and think about your fears—about the things keep you up at night or that fill your mind with worry. Then read through Colossians 1.15-25 and John 1.1-5 and ask God to help you see how the truth and hope described in those verses speak to the fears you have.
- Remember that on Sunday December 12th, from 5 to 8 pm, we will be hosting the Christmas Café here at Redeemer. This event is designed for you to invite friends, family, neighbors, and coworkers. Spend some time this week in prayer asking God to show you who you can invite, and then ask Him to help give you a natural way to invite them.



SERMON NOTES & STUDY GUIDE

