

The Arrival: Hope

Week 1

Discussion Guide



Icebreaker

What's something you're looking forward to this Christmas season and why?
How does the the waiting or the anticipation make you feel?

Read & Discuss

Hope isn't wishful thinking or blind optimism. In scripture, hope rests on God's proven track record. Long before Jesus was born, God planted promises through the prophets. Advent invites us to remember that hope is anchored in someone who has already shown Himself faithful. Purposeful waiting begins by looking back to see the history.

Read: Matthew 1:22-23, Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 2:5-6, Micah 5:2, Matthew 4:14-16, Isaiah 9:1-2

- **The people of God waited hundreds of years between the prophets and the birth of Jesus. What do you think it would feel like to trust God during such a long silence? How does that compare to seasons of silence in your own life?**
- **In a world where promises are often broken, how does it impact you to see a God who keeps His word over generations? Does that challenge or comfort you?**
- **Think about a time where God came through in a way that you did not see coming. How does remembering that moment shape the way you trust and wait on Him today?**

Biblical hope is not placed in a theory, person, idea, or an emotion. Hope has a name and that name is Jesus. Matthew reveals that the baby in Bethlehem was the one the prophets pointed to all along. He is referred to in scripture as our "hope" or our "living hope" and the name by which we are saved. Purposeful waiting means we do not look to someTHING to rescue us, but to someONE, Jesus.

Read: Matthew 1:21, 1 Timothy 1:1, 1 Peter 1:3, Philippians 2:9-11

- **Where are you tempted to put your hope instead of Jesus (people, circumstances, ourselves etc.)?**
- **Why is it easier to place hope there rather than relying on Jesus Christ alone?**
- **What does it look like in your daily life to shift your hope to a Savior who reigns over everything?**

All hope points to an ending, a moment where what we've waited for finally arrives. We are waiting for Christ's return, when suffering ends, all things will be set right, and our faith is realized. After Jesus comes back, hope is no longer needed because hope becomes reality. Purposeful waiting means we live with urgency, readiness, and confidence, knowing that our story has a guaranteed ending and it is a good one.

Read: Romans 8:24-25, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

- **How does knowing that our hope has an actual end date shape the way you navigate today's struggles, doubts, or fears?**
- **When you think about Jesus returning one day, what emotions rise to the surface (excitement, uncertainty, confusion, hope, fear)? What do those emotions reveal about what you're hoping in right now?**

Application

Advent reminds us not just to look back or look ahead, but to respond right now. Hope is something we anchor ourselves to. Hope is purposeful waiting. Make sure your hope rests in something that can bear the weight and make sure those around you have a chance at having that same hope.

- **What in your life right now feels heavy, like it's too much to carry on your own?**
- **How might placing your hope in Christ, instead of circumstances or yourself, lighten the load (Matthew 11:28-30)?**
- **What is your next step (saying yes to Jesus, baptism, obedience)?**
- **Who in your life is struggling right now that you could invite into this living hope?**

Prayer

Spend time in prayer thanking God for the hope that we have in Jesus and for someone to share this hope with.