

The Arrival — Week 1: Hope When It Feels Hopeless

We can have hope in any situation when we remember:

- **Hope has a name—_____.**

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.

Matthew 1:21 (NIV)

Jesus is *"our hope"* (1 Timothy 1:1)

Jesus is our *"blessed hope"* (Titus 2:13)

Jesus is our *"living hope"* (1 Peter 1:3)

Jesus would be born:

… of a virgin woman (Isaiah 7:14; fulfilled: Matthew 1:22–23)

… from the line of David (Isaiah 11; fulfilled: Matthew 1)

… in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2; fulfilled: Matthew 2:1)

- **Hope trusts in _____.**

But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman…

Galatians 4:4 (NLT)

Be joyful in hope, patient in trouble, and persistent in prayer.

Romans 12:12 (ISV)

- **Hope calls us to _____.**

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)

11 For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. 12 It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, 13 while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Titus 2:11–13 (NIV)

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13 (NIV)

Discussion questions:

- For some, the Christmas season brings much excitement and joy; for others, it can be especially challenging. Where do you find yourself in this season? How can knowing that Jesus is our living hope frame the way you enter into this season?
- Galatians 4 tells us that when the fullness of time had come, God sent his son Jesus. Ancient Israel had been waiting for a Messiah for a very long time, and when he arrived, he did so in an unexpected way. What have you been praying and waiting for from God? How can you remain joyful in hope, patient in trouble, and persistent in prayer while you are waiting on God?
- Titus 2 reminds us that while we wait for our blessed hope, God's grace teaches us how to live in the present. How is your hope shaping the way you live today? What tangible step of faith can you take this week that reflects your hope in him?

Recommended resources:

Daily Advent Reading Guide on our App
Hidden Christmas, by Timothy Keller
The Purpose of Christmas, by Rick Warren
Watch for the Light: Readings for Advent and Christmas

(NIV) New International Version (NLT) New Living Translation

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- **Hope trusts in <u>God's timing</u>.**

But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman…

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Be joyful in hope, patient in trouble, and persistent in prayer.

Romans 12:12 (ISV)

- **Hope calls us to <u>active faith</u>.**

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

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11 For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. 12 It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, 13 while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

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