



Experience the Gift of Hope

Opening Prayer

God, thank You that in this season of Advent we can experience Your gift of hope. Help us to remember the hope of the past, hold tightly to hope in our present realities, and wait with expectation for hope to be fulfilled when Christ comes again. Amen.

Scripture Focus

- Luke 2:8–14 – The angels announce hope to the shepherds
- Isaiah 9:2, 6 – The promise of a coming Savior
- Romans 15:13 – Hope overflowing through the Holy Spirit

Encourage participants to read each passage aloud together or take turns.

Main Point 1: Hope Remembered — Hope Past

Read: Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:6; Hebrews 11:1

For generations, God’s people waited for the Messiah. Their faith was rooted in promises yet to be fulfilled. Even in silence and delay, they trusted that God would keep His word.

Advent invites us to share in Israel's waiting—remembering that God has fulfilled His promises through Jesus. When we recall His faithfulness in the past, our confidence grows that He will continue to fulfill His promises in our lives today.

Biblical confidence is a virtue that came in the form of a baby wrapped in the clothing of the poor... swaddling clothes. Emmanuel came to be with us in our lowly state and condition. In the season of Advent, Hope is never far away. Hope is Emmanuel.

Discussion Questions

1. How does remembering God’s past faithfulness strengthen your faith today?
2. What does Hebrews 11:1 teach us about the relationship between faith and hope?
3. What “waiting” season are you currently in, and how can you wait with purpose during Advent?

Reflective Prompt: Write down one promise of God you are holding onto this season.

Main Point 2: Hope Lived — Hope Present

Read: Luke 1:26–38; Hebrews 6:19

Mary's response to the angel Gabriel was one of faith and surrender. She chose trust over fear, allowing the hope of God's word to anchor her life.

Hope in Jesus is not wishful thinking—it is assured confidence in His presence and His promises. Even when life's storms rage, hope anchors our souls because Christ is with us.

The Sears Christmas Catalog always represented an opportunity to see the impossible. Hours upon hours of experiencing... in real time, something that had not materialized. Our hope was alive! Sears has long sensed closed its doors, but we have a Savior who ran before us, to usher in real-time access to the Creator of heaven and earth. His Son, the forerunner, has made our relationship with the Divine possible...And His name is Jesus!

Discussion Questions

1. What does Mary's response ('May your word to me be fulfilled') teach us about living out hope today?
2. How can you apply Hebrews 6:19—"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul"—in a current situation?
3. In what ways does hope help you persevere when you see no immediate change?

Reflective Prompt: Share one area of your life where you need to trust God's timing and presence.

Main Point 3: Hope Anticipated — Hope Future

Read: Romans 8:24–25; Revelation 21:1–5

Our Christian hope reaches beyond Christmas morning—it looks forward to the return of Christ and the renewal of all things. Advent calls us to patient, active anticipation.

The same God who fulfilled His promise through Jesus's first coming will keep His word when Christ returns. This confident expectation fuels perseverance and joy as we await the full restoration of God's kingdom.

In Revelation 21, John quoted Jesus' proclamation: "Behold, I make all things new!" To "Behold" in today's terms means to "look!". Look is the imperative verb of spiritual revelation! When believers share the Good News of Jesus' birth, they are saying, "Look... The Savior has come! He can turn any life around!"

Discussion Questions

1. What does 'hope for what we do not yet have' (Romans 8:25) mean to you personally?
2. How can focusing on Christ's return give perspective to the struggles of today?
3. What practices can help you cultivate hope for the future—especially during Advent?

Reflective Prompt: Spend a few moments imagining the joy of Christ's return. How does that future hope change your outlook on today?

Closing Thought

Advent is a season of waiting, but it is also a season of assurance. We remember God's faithfulness in the past, cling to His presence in the present, and anticipate His promises for the future. The gift of hope is not something we wish for—it's something we know because Jesus has come, and He is coming again.

Closing Benediction

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