



Gifts from Above

11.27.22

BEYOND SUNDAY WEEK ONE HOPE

DAY 1

Watch the Hope video:

<https://youtu.be/4WYNBjJSYvE>

The word “advent” means arrival. So this advent season, we invite you to reflect on the biblical meanings of hope, peace, joy, and love to discover how these virtues have arrived in the world through Jesus.

For our first week, we will explore the biblical meaning of hope. How does this video encourage you today?

DAY 2

Biblical hope relies on God’s character as a basis for trusting that the future will be better than the present. The more we get to know God’s character, the more hope we can have. [Read Psalm 130:1-8.](#)

Reflection and Discussion Questions:

- What does the psalmist say about God’s character?
- What does the psalmist believe God will do for Israel?

DAY 3

Optimism chooses to see how circumstances could work out for the best. Biblical hope, however, is not based on circumstances. Hopeful people in the Bible often face difficult times with no evidence that things will get better, but they choose to hope because they trust God’s words of promise and his good character. For example, Israel’s prophet Micah lived amid injustice and evil. He grieved and protested against the injustice while still looking to God for hope. [Read Micah 7:6-8.](#)

Reflection and Discussion Questions:

- What specific troubles does Micah list in verse 6, and how does he respond in verses 7 and 8?
- What are some of the troubles around you right now?
- How does Micah’s response encourage or challenge you today?

DAY 4

God’s past faithfulness motivates hope for the future because we can remember God is consistent and trustworthy. Hope can exist in the darkest seasons when we look to him. [Read Psalm 39:6-7.](#)

Reflection and Discussion Questions:

- When the Psalmist looks at the world around him what does he notice?
- How does the Psalmist look to God and express his hope?

DAY 5

Biblical hope depends on Jesus because he gives “living hope” through his resurrection. Our mortal lives fade and die, as he also died, but the life of Jesus is indestructible. He is alive and always offering unending, incorruptible life with him. We begin entering this hopeful way of life when we stop trusting in the world's fear-based advice about how to survive, and start trusting in Jesus' love-based invitation to come alive in him. **Read 1 Peter 1:3-5.**

Reflection and Discussion Questions:

- What stands out to you as you read this passage?
- Do you notice how this passage is an expression of praise addressed to God?
- How can this passage help us understand what it practically means to praise God?

DAY 6

Jesus' Spirit can live within us. The Holy Spirit empowers Jesus' followers with God's presence and promises. The apostle Paul called this mystery “Christ in you, the hope of glory.” **Read Colossians 1:25-29.**

Reflection and Discussion Questions:

- According to this passage, who and what is needed to become mature in Jesus?
- What did Christ's Spirit powerfully work through Paul?
- What is one way that power work continues to impact our lives, even today?

DAY 7

Biblical hope is not just for humanity; it's for all of creation. Jesus' resurrection provided a glimpse of how the whole universe will one day be restored. **Read Romans 8:18-39.**

Reflection and Discussion Questions:

- In this passage, what do the children of God and creation groan to experience?
- What do you imagine creation will be like when this hope is finally realized?



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WEEK ONE: HOPE