

The word hope I take for faith; and indeed hope is nothing else but the constancy of faith.

John Calvin

Do not look to your hope, but to Christ, the source of your hope.

C.H. Spurgeon

Hope in God's promises, therefore, is not a wishful longing but a faith-filled confidence for the future. It is simply impossible to trust one of God's promises and not anticipate its coming true. To know God is to trust him. And to trust God is to trust his promises. And to trust God's promises is to be sure of their fulfillment. This assurance concerning the future, anchored in God's promises, is what the Bible calls "hope."

Scott Hafemann

The permanence of God's character guarantees the fulfillment of his promises.

A.W. Pink

The Bible is full of God's promises to provide for us spiritually and materially, to never forsake us, to give us peace in times of difficult circumstances, to cause all circumstances to work together for our good, and finally to bring us safely home to glory. *Not one of those promises is dependent upon our performance.* They are all dependent on the grace of God given to us through Jesus Christ.

Jerry Bridges

The future is as bright as the promises of God.

Adoniram Judson

What greater rebellion against God, what greater wickedness, what greater contempt of God is there than not believing His promise? For what is this but to make God a liar or to doubt that He is truthful.

Martin Luther

In His infinite wisdom, God allows trials in order to develop perseverance in us and to cause us to fix our hopes on the glory that is yet to be revealed... Our faith and perseverance can grow only under the pain of trial.

Jerry Bridges

## ***A Time for Hope***

### Selected Scriptures

**Introduction:** On this first Sunday of Advent, we turn our eyes to the place hope has always played in the lives of those seeking the promise of Messiah. With far less evidence than is available to us, the Old Testament God-followers ordered their lives around God's promise to send the "He", the One who would one day rescue them from their bondage and brokenness. Imagine the doubts that would have arisen over the centuries! And then imagine the unparalleled joy at hearing John say "there He is, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

### **Hope Begun**

**Genesis 3:15**

The fall of man

The faithfulness of God

### **Hope Displayed**

**Selected Scriptures**

Noah, Abraham, Moses

Isaiah, Micah, Malachi

### **Hope Defined**

**Hebrews 11:13**

Seeing the promise

Welcoming the promise from afar

Confessing that the promise is the ordering principle of life

### **Hope Fulfilled**

**Luke 2; John 1**

Simeon's prayer

John's proclamation

### ***A time for hope ...***

*"For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."*

Romans 15:4

## The First Sunday of Advent

### ***A Time for Hope***

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Isaiah, Micah, Malachi

John, Joseph, Mary

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# Kids Notes

## A Time For Hope

### The Questions

Answer the following questions. The answers are on the back.

#### 1. Hope is:

- A. wishing things would get better.
- B. confidence in the promises of God.
- C. really just a wasted emotion today.
- D. A and C.

#### 2. In Hebrews 11:13 we are told that the OT saints:

- A. understood the promises of God.
- B. welcomed the promises of God.
- C. lived their lives in light of the promises of God.
- D. all of the above.

#### 3. The birth of Jesus that we celebrate at Christmas:

- A. is the guarantee from God for all His promises.
- B. gives us the best reason to be hopeful about the future.
- C. means that God will keep all His promises to us.
- D. all of the above

For Family Discussion: *How is "hope" often understood today? How does the Bible define and describe "hope?"*

Space to Doodle

### Did You Hear It?

Mark the times you hear these key words:

HOPE _____	TOTAL: _____
MESSIAH _____	_____
CHRIST _____	_____
PROMISE _____	_____
CHRISTMAS _____	_____
INCARNATION _____	_____

### Word Search

Find the following words in the scramble below. Letters are sometimes used twice, and words may go around corners.

HOPE MESSIAH CHRIST PROMISE CHRISTMAS GIFTS FAMILY JOY  
 INCARNATION BETHLEHEM STAR SHEPHERDS HOLIDAY FAITH SIN  
 GRACE LOVE CHURCH SCRIPTURES PERSEVERANCE TRUST ALIGN  
 ORDER LIFE PRINCIPLE HAPPINESS SACRIFICE

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F P V C R N C J S C I L M H D F D
E V R E H T I A J N J E I A R B Y
U S D I S U C S C P H G Q P E W S
O R I I N R R A D E L I N P L A A
O F R M I C R C L R O F C I Q B M
Q H P F O N I H H S V T Y N D C T
C J I L A R T P G E E S A E X Q S
C C I T Z E P S L V C B D S F S I
E F I V B J Z V U E R N I S T D R
E O S E R U T P I R C S L N B F H
N H A I S S E M V A T V O G A X C
Y U F A M I L Y F N S E H I Y O J
S H E P H E R D S C C T T L W V H
E C A R G H O P E E C H A A S U Y
Z V D X B A V Q T J P U A R R Q Z
    
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