

Advent Week 1: Hope

Prayer for Lighting the Hope Candle (purple candle)

Jesus, who brings hope into hopeless situations, we thank you for your heavenly rescue mission, which we remember at Christmas. We light this candle as a reminder of the hope that you bring. We offer up our prayers of hope, knowing that you care deeply about each and every one of these situations. Amen.

Scripture: Psalm 25:1-9

Reflect and/or Discuss

- What are you waiting for this Advent?
- Waiting and trust go hand in hand. When have you trusted God during a time of waiting?
- Trust and hope go hand in hand. When have you seen hope fulfilled?
- Name an area in your life right now where it is difficult to hope in God. Why? Share this with God as a prayer.
- Remembering God's goodness is one way we can wait with hope. When has God been good?

Breath Prayer

Breathe In: Hold tight to hope

Breathe Out: For God is faithful

Song: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus by Shane and Shane (or any version you prefer)

Advent Week 1: Hope

The season of Advent is upon us and we are so excited to be walking through this season together as a congregation. Below you will find several different spiritual practices to help you slow down and be aware of God's presence during this season of waiting. How you choose to engage in the Advent materials is completely up to you. There is no right or wrong way to participate. Use all the materials or none of them. Ultimately, our prayer is that this season of Advent slows you down, brings you nearer to God, makes you aware of the reality of Immanuel, "God with us", and speaks hope, peace, joy and love directly into whatever season of waiting you are currently experiencing. To God be the glory.

Prayer for Lighting the Hope Candle (purple candle) *(A Question You Might Have: When do I light the Hope Candle? Answer: Anytime and as many times you want, and whenever/wherever makes the most sense for you and/or your family.)*

Jesus, who brings hope into hopeless situations, we thank you for your heavenly rescue mission, which we remember at Christmas.

We light this candle as a reminder of the hope that you bring.

We offer up our prayers of hope, knowing that you care deeply about each and every one of these situations. Amen.

Scripture: Psalm 25:1-9

In you, Lord my God,
I put my trust.

2 I trust in you;
do not let me be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

3 No one who hopes in you
will ever be put to shame,
but shame will come on those
who are treacherous without cause.

4 Show me your ways, Lord,
teach me your paths.

5 Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my Savior,

and my hope is in you all day long.

6 Remember, Lord, your great mercy and
love,

for they are from of old.

7 Do not remember the sins of my youth
and my rebellious ways;
according to your love remember me,
for you, Lord, are good.

8 Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in his
ways.

9 He guides the humble in what is right
and teaches them his way.

Reflect and/or Discuss

1. What are you waiting for this Advent?
2. Waiting and trust go hand in hand. When have you trusted God during a time of waiting?
3. Trust and hope go hand in hand. When have you seen hope fulfilled?
4. Name an area in your life right now where it is difficult to hope in God. Why? Share this with God as a prayer.
5. Remembering God's goodness is one way we can wait with hope. When has God been good?

Breath Prayer

From Hebrews 10:23, "Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful."

Breathe In: Hold tight to hope

Breathe Out: For God is faithful

Song: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus by Shane and Shane (or any version you prefer)

Listen on [THIS PLAYLIST](#)

Lyrics:

Come, Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.
Born Thy people to deliver,

Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne

For the Kids!

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Prepare: [Jesus Gives Hope! printable for each child](#), Bible, drawing supplies

Do: Have everyone draw something they are looking forward to this Christmas. Discuss their drawings as you introduce the concept of hope.

Discuss

1. Is it hard to wait for these things to happen? Why or why not?
2. What makes waiting hard?
3. What do you think of when you hear the word hope? (We sometimes use the word “hope” to mean “looking forward to something that may or may not happen.” Our Christmas hopes may or may not happen. But our hope in Jesus is different!)
4. What is our hope in Jesus? (It means looking forward to Jesus making all his promises to me come true. What Jesus says will happen WILL happen. When we put our hope in Jesus, we are trusting that his plan is good and true. Jesus freed us from sin and Jesus will return again and make all things right, whole, and good.)
5. Remembering God’s goodness is one way we can wait with hope. When has God been good?