

WEEK 3

LOVE • JOY • HOPE • PEACE

WEEK 3

HOPE // WEEK OF DECEMBER 12TH

Read Isaiah 8:11-17, Romans 5:2-5, Psalm 33:20-22

What does this name teach you about God? How does that bring you hope today?

What hope are you clinging to for this Advent season?

We have a storehouse of hope. It is the ultimate trust fund, a hope chest full of the promises of God. While we have yet to see our God face to face, we've been given the gift of faith to believe in Him, know Him, and love Him now. Ours is a living and active hope in a living and active God, who has unfathomable blessings in store for us. And yet, there are days, lots of them, when our living hope seems to be doing little more than gathering dust. The gap between this present moment and future glory may seem impossibly large. Still we rejoice. Because we have a hope kept in heaven that can never be destroyed. One day we will trade in the suffering of these "various trials" for the many gifts God has tucked away for us. Hoping in Him will never disappoint us the way the world does time and time again. Because "God's love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit" we can learn to rejoice and hope again, even in our pain (Romans 5:3,5). But it's only in clinging to Him that we will find the strength to move forward in faith, one step at a time. Our circumstances do not change our Hope. Our lives and surroundings, our days and our hearts—we are all different. We have a myriad of fears and joys and challenges among us, but we have a singular hope. Ours is the hope that has proved faithful since the time of Abraham, since Hope Himself promised Abraham the impossible and delivered on that promise. The same God who was the hope of Abraham is our hope. The same God who watched over Israel watches over you and me. He is our collective hope and help as the Church, one body of believers stretching worldwide. He is our personal, intimate hope as individuals, our keeper and the One who watches over our going out and our coming in. He is by our side, always close at hand. He is the good shepherd, truly, and He cares for every. single. Sheep. This life is unsure. Our circumstances are unsure. Our God, He is sure. And He is our hope.

-She Reads Truth

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OPTIONAL FAMILY DISCUSSION:

When we think about hope, we might say, "I hope to get a new video game for Christmas" or "I hope it snows this year on Christmas Eve." In those cases, we don't know if what we are hoping for will really happen. We have no control over the outcome. But when the Bible talks about hope, there is a certainty, not because of what we hope for, but because of WHO we hope in. The Bible teaches us that we can hope in God. Throughout history, God has never left His people hopeless. God promised to send Jesus to rescue people from sin and make a way for us to be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever!

In the Old Testament, God had special messengers called prophets who would share God's promises called prophecies. Isaiah was a prophet sent by God to share these promises (prophecies) with the people. Isaiah promises that a child will be born whose name will be Immanuel which means God with us. That promise spoken by Isaiah was made to God's people hundreds of years before Jesus was born. When we read the New Testament, we see how God kept his promise to send Jesus into the world as a baby. This shows us that we can trust God to keep all His promises. This brings us Hope that God keeps His promises. God sent His son Jesus to be our hope, to be with us when things are hard.

What's the difference between hope in the things of the world and hope in Jesus?

How does Jesus give us hope?

SONG // O Holy Night

WATCH // The BibleProject Video - HOPE - graceintheword.cc/hope

PRAYER // Thank you God for sharing your plans and promises in your Word to give us hope for the future. Thank you for sending Jesus into a weary world to be with us and to be our hope when things feel hard. Help us to bring hope to those who feel hopeless around us and to share with them the hope of your Son with others. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

