

### Discussion Questions

- What makes Christian hope “living” instead of fragile?
- How does knowing that God guards your salvation bring you comfort?

### **Day 5 Therefore, I will hope in Him**

*Lamentations 3:21–24* But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ‘The LORD is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘therefore I will hope in him.’

Jeremiah wrote these words with tears in his eyes. The book of Lamentations is full of grief, yet in the middle of it comes one of the most beautiful declarations of hope in the Bible. Hope begins when we call to mind what is true about God: His steadfast love, His endless mercy, and His unfailing faithfulness. God’s mercies are new every morning—not leftovers from yesterday, but fresh compassion for today. Advent reminds us that God’s mercy came in the form of a Child that was born into suffering to rescue us. Christ is the proof that God’s love does not stop even when discipline or sorrow come. Jeremiah declares, “The LORD is my portion.” This means God Himself is enough, our hope is rooted in who He is, not in what He gives. Advent teaches us that our highest good is not earthly comfort but communion with God through His son Jesus Christ. His faithfulness is stronger than any despair and His mercy rises with the morning sun every new morning.

### Discussion Questions

- What truth about God do you need to call to mind today?
- What does it mean to say “The LORD is my portion”?

A d v e n t

## **Family Worship Guide**



## **West Oaks Baptist Church**

(in preparation for Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025)

### **Advent Devotional #1 Hope**

## Day 1 - Hope's Light breaks through

Isaiah 9:2,6-7 *The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone... For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder... Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end... The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.* Advent begins with the reminder that God brings hope into places of deep darkness. When Isaiah spoke these words, Israel was spiritually bankrupt, politically unstable, and under the shadow of God's judgment. They were walking in darkness, not only the darkness around them, but the darkness within spiritually. Yet into that darkness, God promised a Child, a Son, whose rule would bring endless peace and whose reign would never fail. Their hope did not rest on their performance, repentance, or strength. It rested entirely on God's zeal, meaning His unstoppable commitment to fulfill His covenant promises. This is the foundation of Biblical hope and that God Himself guarantees the outcome. The people could not lift themselves out of darkness, but light came to them. We too cannot climb our way to God, but Christ, the Light of the World, has come to us. Advent reminds us that hope is not fragile, uncertain, or dependent on the world's stability. Hope is rooted in a King whose reign is eternal and whose promises cannot fail. When our lives feel shadowed by sin, discouragement, or fear, Advent invites us to look not to ourselves, but to the Child born to reign forever. The hope of Isaiah 9 was fulfilled in Bethlehem, and will be fully consummated when Christ returns

### Discussion Questions

- What darkness does Christ's light conquer in your heart or circumstances today?
- How does God's zeal strengthen your hope?

## Day 2 Hope Abounds

Romans 15:12-13 *The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope.' May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.* Paul here in the book of Romans identifies God as "the God of hope", meaning hope is not merely something God gives but hope is something God is. Our hope is alive because its source is alive. Christ, the root of Jesse, is the promised King from David's line, and Paul emphasizes that His rule extends beyond Israel and to the nations. Advent hope is global, sovereign, and unstoppable. It is not confined to one people; it is for the whole world. Notice how hope grows in the believer. As the believer trust in God's promises, their hope grows more confident by the power of the Holy Spirit. Hope is not something we manufacture from within. It is the Spirit's work in us as we ground ourselves in the gospel. As we meditate on Christ's coming, His cross, His resurrection, and His promised return, the Spirit fills us with joy, peace, and hope that cannot be shaken. Advent hope is certainty rooted in God's character. It abounds not because life is easy, but because Christ reigns. The same Spirit who came upon Mary, empowered Jesus' ministry, and raised Him from the dead now works in your heart to anchor you in hope.

### Discussion Questions

- What is one promise of God you can believe today to grow hope?
- How does the Holy Spirit help you abound in hope?

## Day 3 Unbroken Hope

Jeremiah 29:11-14 *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope... You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you...* These words were written to people living far from home, under discipline, and waiting for restoration. Advent reminds us that God's hope often appears in seasons of exile, uncertainty, and longing. Israel's situation was painful, but God had not abandoned them. His plans were sovereign and good, even when they did not understand His timing. God's plans always move toward redemption. The ultimate fulfillment of this promise is Christ Himself. He gives us a future and a hope that cannot be broken by circumstances. Through Christ, God draws near to His people, inviting them to seek Him with full assurance: "I will be found by you." Advent is a season of seeking, seeking the God who came near in the incarnation and who will come again in glory. Our hope is not that life will always go smoothly, but that God is faithful in every season, including hardship. His plans for His children are always rooted in His covenant love and fulfilled in Christ.

### Discussion Questions

- What area of your life needs trust that God knows His plans?
- What does it mean to seek God with your whole heart?

## Day 4 Living Hope

1 Peter 1:3-5 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead... to an inheritance... kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith...* Peter calls our hope living, meaning it is vibrant, active, and enduring. This hope is grounded entirely in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our living Savior guarantees a living hope. Advent points us to Bethlehem, but Peter points us to the empty tomb. Christ came to die and rise, so our hope would be unshakable. Notice who secures our hope: God causes us to be born again; God keeps our inheritance; God guards us by His power. Advent hope is not fragile, Biblically it rests on the unbreakable strength of God's mercy and sovereignty. The inheritance that awaits us such as eternal life, resurrection, and the presence of God, is secure because God Himself keeps it. This hope does not eliminate suffering, but it reframes it. Trials end up refining our faith, not destroying it. Advent teaches us to wait with confidence, not because we are strong, but because we are kept by the One who never fails. It is a confident expectation!