



Advent Part 1 – Hope: The Promise of Messiah
Pastor Myles Weiss
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USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

[Genesis 3:15, NLT]

And I will make enemies Of you and the woman, and of your offspring and her Descendant; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise Him on the heel.

- 1. Hope is not limited by your past**
- 2. Hope is not limited by your present**
- 3. Hope is a Person [Who is Not Limited at All]**

1. Hope is not limited by your past

1st Reference of Hope [in Hebrew, a scarlet cord, a tangible connection]

תִּקְוָה = Tikvah = Hebrew for Hope
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[Joshua 3:1-17, NLT]

¹ Then Joshua secretly sent out two spies from the Israelite camp at Acacia Grove. He instructed them, "Scout out the land on the other side of the Jordan River, especially around Jericho." So the two men set out and came to the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there that night. ² But someone told the king of Jericho, "Some Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land." ³ So the king of Jericho sent orders to Rahab: "Bring out the men who have come into your house, for they have come here to spy out the whole land." ⁴ Rahab had hidden the two men, but she replied, "Yes, the men were here earlier, but I didn't know where they were from." ⁵ They left the town at dusk, as the gates were about to close. I don't know where they went. If you hurry, you can probably catch up with them." ⁶ (Actually, she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them beneath bundles of flax she had laid out.) ⁷ So the king's men went looking for the spies along the road leading to the shallow crossings of the Jordan River. And as soon as the king's men had left, the gate of Jericho was shut. ⁸ Before the spies went to sleep that night, Rahab went up on the roof to talk with them. ⁹ "I know the LORD has given you this land," she told them. "We are all afraid of you. Everyone in the land is living in terror." ¹⁰ For we have heard how the LORD made a dry path for you through the Red Sea when you left Egypt. And we know what you did to Sihon and Og, the two Amorite kings east of the Jordan River, whose people you completely destroyed. ¹¹ No wonder our hearts have melted in fear! No one has the courage to fight after hearing such things. For the LORD your God is the supreme God of the heavens above and the earth below. ¹² "Now swear to me by the LORD that you will be kind to me and my family since I have helped you. Give me some guarantee that ¹³ when Jericho is conquered, you will let me live, along with my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all their families." ¹⁴ "We offer our own lives as a guarantee for your safety," the men agreed. "If you don't betray us, we will keep our promise and be kind to you when the LORD gives us the land." ¹⁵ Then, since Rahab's house was built into the town wall, she let them down by a rope through the window. ¹⁶ "Escape to the hill country," she told them. "Hide there for three days from the men searching for you. Then, when they have returned, you can go on your way." ¹⁷ Before they left, the men told her, "We will be bound by the oath we have taken only if you follow these instructions."

[Psalm 31-3, AMP]

¹ LORD, how my enemies have increased! Many are rising up against me. ² Many are saying of my soul, "There is no salvation for him in God." Selah ³ But You, LORD, are a shield around me,

2. Hope is not limited by your present

[Romans 15:13, NASB]

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

[Jeremiah 29:11, NASB]

For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for prosperity and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

[Philippians 1:3-6]

³ I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴ always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, ⁵ in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work among you will complete it by the day of Christ Jesus.

3. Hope is a Person [Who is Not Limited at All]

[1 Corinthians 15:3-4, NASB]

³ For I handed down to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures...

[Titus 2:11-14]

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

[2 Samuel 4:4, NIV]

And Jonathan son of Saul had a son who was lame in his feet. He was five years old when the report about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel. His nurse picked him up and fled, but as she was hurrying to escape, he fell and became lame. His name was Mephibosheth.

[Zechariah 9:11, NIV]

Because of the covenant I made with you, sealed with blood, I will free your prisoners from death in a waterless dungeon.

[2 Samuel 9:1, NASB]

Then David asked, "Is there anyone left from the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for the sake of Jonathan?"

[2 Samuel 9:4, NASB]

So the king said to him, "Where is he?" And Ziba said to the king, "Behold, he is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, in Lo-debar.

[2 Samuel 9:10, NASB]

You and your sons and servants are to work the ground for him and bring in the harvest, so that your master's grandson may have food to eat. But Mephibosheth, your master's grandson, is always to eat at my table.

[Romans 5:5, ESV]

Hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

[Hebrews 10:23, NKJV]

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

Hope is calling you to the King's Table today!

FOR MONDAY—

1. This week, look for opportunities to share the hope of Jesus with someone.

TALK IT THROUGH

1. What is one thing that you hoped for as a child?
2. What do you think of when you hear the word "advent?" With its meaning "arrival" or "coming," what does that mean for believers?
3. How is hope not limited by your past or your present?
4. Where do you think people commonly reach, when looking for hope for their situations?
5. Why must our hope be in Jesus regarding our future? How does that change the way you approach each day?
6. How do you "abound in hope"? Why is this necessary? See Romans 15:13
7. How does Mephibosheth's story bring us hope of redemption and restoration?