



# *the* Spirit of Christmas

THE FATHER'S HOUSE

**Hope In the Middle**  
**Pastor Jake Taylor 11.30.2025**

## **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. 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.

### ***[Matthew 4: 12-17] NIV***

When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah: "Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned." From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

### ***[Genesis 3:15] NIV***

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

### ***[Proverbs 13:12] NIV***

Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.

***[Romans 8:28] NKJV***

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

***1. Rehearse His PAST faithfulness***

***[Psalm 103:1-5] NIV***

Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

***[Hebrews 10:23] NIV***

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

***[Lamentations 3:16-20] NIV***

He has broken my teeth with gravel; he has trampled me in the dust. I have been deprived of peace; I have forgotten what prosperity is. So, I say, "My splendor is gone and all that I had hoped from the LORD." I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me.

***[Lamentations 3:21-25] NIV***

Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore, I will wait for him." The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him.

***2. Keep Your Eyes on the Future***

***[Hebrews 13:8] NIV***

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

***[1 Peter 1:3-5] NIV***

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an

inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

***[2 Corinthians 4:16-18] NIV***

Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So, we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

***[Hebrews 6:19-20] NIV***

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.

***[Romans 8:22-23] NIV***

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.

**Key Points:**

- 1. Rehearse His PAST faithfulness***
- 2. Keep Your Eyes on the Future***

**Applications for the Week:**

How do you usually respond to pain, confusion or doubt? How might you bring those honestly to God this week and allow him to give you a new hope?

**Discussion Questions:**

- 1.** What does Proverbs 13:12 tell us about what happens when our hope is deferred?
- 2.** How do you personally define hope? How does Pastor Jake's definition challenge or encourage you?
- 3.** Can you identify ways life has caused you to lower your expectations? How might God be calling you to hope again?

- 4.** How does 1 Peter 1:3-5 tell us that Jesus has provided a living hope for us as believers?
- 5.** What are some examples from your life or the stories in the Bible where remembering God's past faithfulness helped you through a difficult middle season?
- 6.** What does it look like for you to keep your eyes on eternity when the present feels overwhelming?