

Advent – Week 1 – Hope Message Based Curriculum

Advent: Hope - Message-Based Curriculum

Opening

- **Welcome & Prayer:**
 - Begin with a welcome and open with prayer, inviting the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion.
- **Theme Introduction:**
 - Share the focus of the week: Hope through Christ's first and second Advents. Emphasize that this hope is a living, enduring confidence rooted in God's mercy.

Discussion Questions

Understanding Hope

- **Read 1 Peter 1:3-9 together**
 1. How do you typically define "hope"? How does Peter's concept of *living hope* in 1 Peter 1:3-9 differ from common ideas of hope?
 2. Peter mentions that hope is grounded in the resurrection of Jesus and looks forward to an imperishable inheritance (1 Peter 1:3-4). How do these truths affect how we live today? (In other words, if Jesus really rose from the dead, how does that give us hope for today?)
 3. What's one thing you're hopeful for?

The Role of Mercy

- **Reflect on the statement: "Mercy requires a person in need and someone able to meet that need."**
 1. How has God's mercy impacted your life? Describe our need for a savior and why God is the only One sufficient to fulfill that need.
 2. Share a time when understanding God's mercy helped you through trials or challenges.

Hope in the Midst of Trials

- **Peter acknowledges the trials believers face (1 Peter 1:6-7).**
 1. How do these verses encourage us to remain hopeful even in distress?
 2. What practical steps can we take to experience joy and peace in believing (Romans 15:13), especially during difficult seasons?

Bible Reflection

- **Silent Reading: Spend 10 minutes quietly reflecting on 1 Peter 1:3-9.**
 1. Consider the connection between the past (Jesus' resurrection), the future (our inheritance), and the present (trials and joy).
 - **Group Sharing:**
 1. Invite participants to share any insights or convictions that arose during their reflection.
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Prayer Time

- **Break into pairs or smaller groups for prayer. Suggested focuses:**
 1. **Thankfulness:** Praise God for His mercy and the living hope we have in Christ.
 2. **Strength in Trials:** Ask for perseverance and trust in God during challenging times.
 3. **Radiating Hope:** Pray that your group members reflect the hope of Christ to others in their lives.
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Closing

- **Wrap-Up:** Thank the group for their participation. Encourage them to revisit 1 Peter 1 and Romans 15 throughout the week.
 - **Final Prayer:** Conclude with a prayer of gratitude and a request for God's guidance in living out the hope we have through Christ.
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