



## ADVENT 2021 WEEK 1 - HOPE

### Community Group Study Guide 1 Peter 1:3-12 - Week of December 5, 2021

This week we began our Advent series. Advent is a season when we place extra emphasis on the sense of longing that Old Testament believers experienced as they heard the promises of God and awaited the coming of the Messiah for over 400 years between the time of the prophecy of Malachi and the coming of Christ, as chronicled in the four gospels. We relate to them as we await the second coming of our Lord and Savior to consummate His kingdom and completely free us from the remaining influence that Satan, sin and death have over us and God's creation. We place extra emphasis on the fact that Jesus Christ is our only hope for experiencing the unadulterated peace, love and joy of God the Father in the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

The ultimate message of Advent is that God fulfills His covenant promises. His word does not return void. This gives us great hope that, while living as sojourners apart from the fully consummated Kingdom of Heaven, through whatever seasons of life that we experience, under the sovereignty of God, light will ultimately come after darkness. We are given assurance that God can redeem and use the most despairing of individuals and circumstances for His glory and purposes. We can trust that, no matter what happens in this life, we will ultimately live in the presence of our Lord and Savior. In response to God's faithfulness to His word, our daily task in life is faithfulness to His commands. We are to be faithful stewards and messengers of the gospel during the time that is given to us before Christ's return.

This week, Pastor Shane taught from 1 Peter 1:3-12 in order to remind the church of the foundation of our hope, the substance of our hope, and the power of our hope. He reminded us that the foundation of our hope in life is rooted in the heart and character of God Himself and His plans and actions, not our own. We were reminded to faithfully steward all callings and crises for His glory, and to continue to run and remember His providential guidance and involvement in every moment of life, as we await Christ's return.

### DISCUSSION GOALS

#### Head

To understand the foundation of a Christian's hope in life.

#### Heart

To trust God in all seasons of life while meditating upon his mercy toward us in sending Jesus to be our Savior.

#### Hands

To consistently write down and track evidence of God's providential faithfulness to us as we run forward in life.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next **Baptism Seminar** will be at 1pm on January 16 in the Temple basement.

Sign up to join a service team here: <https://brookline.mosaicboston.com/serve>.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

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**Read 1 Peter 3:1-12.** Refer to and explore Romans 5:1-22, Hebrews 11:1, James 1:2-4, Romans 8, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Titus 3:1-7, Matthew 6-7, 1 Peter 3:13-17, and Revelation 21 throughout the discussion and/or in personal meditation throughout the week.

1. For those who are familiar with it, how has the season of Advent been a source of encouragement for you in previous years?
2. Are any of you trying to approach this season of Advent differently than in previous years? How?
3. Pastor Shane encouraged us to write down and share about the evidence of God's providential faithfulness to us as we face crises and follow our callings. Would someone like to share about the evidence that they see in their own life?
4. What parts of 1 Peter 1:3-12 or the sermon stuck out to you the most?
5. What is the foundation of a Christian's hope in this life?
6. How does this foundation serve as a great means of assurance of one's salvation and assurance of God's sovereignty over all situations in life?
7. If someone had to ask you about the "living hope" that you have as a result of your faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, how would you describe it?
8. What is the substance of a Christian's hope? How is it different than that of a non-believer?
9. Pastor Shane said, "When you combine the right foundation of hope with the right substance of hope, then you know the unstoppable power of hope." Engage this quotation. How have you seen this prove true in your life as a Christian?
10. Pastor Shane asked, "Have you ever thought about suffering as stewardship?". Does this question challenge you to face future suffering differently than in the past?