



In one of the best-selling books of all time, *The Late Great Planet Earth*, author Hal Lindsey wrote, *Man can live about forty days without food, about three days without water, about eight minutes without air, but only for one second without hope.* Along those same lines of thought, famed theologian Lewis Smedes once penned, *Hope is to our spirits what oxygen is to our lungs. Lose hope and you die. They may not bury you for a while, but without hope you are dead inside.* Here's the **Good News**: If you are a follower of Jesus, then you never need fear being without hope. For you see, as a Christian you have the **God of hope** living within you, and He will cause your life to **abound in hope** (**Romans 15:13**). As we enter into the season of **Advent 2022**, we're going to let God's Word teach us about five best gifts that God gives to all who call upon Christ to be their God and Savior. Hope is the first gift that Jesus brings to us at Christmas.

HOPE IS A _____ KIND OF WORD

HOPE IS A _____

HOPE IS ABOUT THE _____

HOPE MAKES TODAY SO MUCH _____

1. (**Romans 5:5**) God's Hope protects you from being ...
2. (**Romans 15:13a**) God's Hope helps you see Him for ...
3. (**Romans 15:13b**) God's Hope makes you ...
4. (**Galatians 5:5**) God's Hope assures you that God is ...
5. (**Ephesians 1:12,18**) God's Hope keeps you motivated to live ...
6. (**Hebrews 6:19**) God's Hope provides us with ...
7. (**Psalms 31:24**) God's Hope is the supply source for all the ...

FOR THOUGHT & TALK

*In your small group take no more than 5 minutes to review the main points of this week's message.
Don't expect to answer all the questions. Just choose to discuss the ones your group would.*

Crowd Breaker ... What has been your favorite dish at a Thanksgiving meal? What was the best thing that happened on Thanksgiving in a group you've spent the day with?

1. Christmastime is often called the **ADVENT** season. What does the word Advent mean? The term is applied in three ways. One way relates to the first coming of Jesus, His birth, as the Babe of Bethlehem. What are the other two ways? PJ mentioned that for ADVENT 2022 at NCF, we'll be looking at five amazing gifts that Jesus has given His followers. The first is hope. What are the other four? Why is it good to focus on these things, especially at this time of year?
2. What exactly is the difference in meaning between the way our culture uses the word "hope" and the way the Bible uses the word "hope?" Can you give some examples of those differences? What happens when people only have cultural hope and, at some point, they realize it is actually false hope? What happens when we realize that God's hope is the real deal ... that it is total confidence in the promises of God?
3. **Matthew 12:21** tells us, **In His Name** (the Name "Jesus") **all the people of the world will have hope**. How is Jesus the hope of the world? What does it mean to you personally that Jesus is (very specifically) your hope? Share some ways that Jesus has been your hope in life.
4. **Psalms 130** and **131** say, *Hope in the Lord now and forever, because with Him is loving-kindness and abundant redemption.* **Proverbs 23:18** adds, *And this hope for your future can never be taken from you!* What are some of the things you are most anticipating about your future in Heaven? How does it make you feel that your God-given hope for eternity can never be taken away from you? How does thinking about what Jesus has in store for our tomorrow help us follow Him more faithfully today?
5. The Bible makes it clear that *God's hope makes today so much better* for those who faithfully follow Jesus. How has God's hope helped you when you felt overwhelmed by life? What is so cool about realizing that Jesus is the God of hope? What are some ways that living by God's hope makes your outlook on life upbeat? (**Romans 15:13**) How has the hope of God given your heart courage? How has God's hope been an anchor to your soul? (**Hebrews 6:19**)