

Advent Week 1: Hope Looking Forward

Pastor Kevin Donoho

December 3, 2023

DURING THE STORY SERIES, REMIX CLASS SESSIONS WILL BE DIVIDED INTO TWO SEGMENTS:

1) THE STORY STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS CHOSEN BY THE LEADER.

2) THE FOLLOWING REMIX QUESTIONS:

Opening Discussion

- What thoughts, feelings, or impressions do you have about the sermon this week?

Prayer

Oh Lord, as we enter into the season of Advent, a time of waiting and anticipation, fill us with the hope of Christ. Let our hearts be open wide for the new things you want to reveal to us during this season. In moments of doubt or even despair, remind us of YOUR unwavering faithfulness. Let that dispel any fear we may have and replace it with your peace.

In this season of Advent, may we not only see hope rise within ourselves but also in those around us. Let us be hope-bringers to those we love and encounter each day. May Jesus' birth be a reminder of your profound love for us and the ultimate hope that brings to the world.

Amen

Thought #1: Hope and Fear Can Go Hand-in-Hand

Pastor Kevin shared a story of his experience snow skiing and how he loved the thrill and sense of adventure that came

with it. The beautiful views and the excitement. However, he also shared that with the thrill came fear. In our day-to-day lives, we often experience the same when it comes to hope. There is a thrill of anticipation around hope, but also a fear connected to it.

Recall a time when you felt this comingling of emotions. Where you were hopefully anticipating something in your life, but also felt a sense of fear around it. What caused that fear? Fear it wouldn't happen? Fear it wouldn't be what you expected? Fear that it wouldn't be enough?

When you've experienced this, how did you respond? Did you press into the hope and fear or pull away from it? How does this experience shift your perspective on what it means to "hope"?

Thought #2: Hope Can Come With Waiting

Read Romans 4:18-19

"Even when there was no reason for hope, Abraham kept hoping—believing that he would become the father of many nations. For God had said to him, "That's how many descendants you will have!" And Abraham's faith did not weaken, even though, at about 100 years of age, he figured his body was as good as dead—and so was Sarah's womb."

Abraham and Sarah had good reason to hope: God had promised them great things! Yet, the fulfillment of this promise did not come quickly.

Have you found yourself, either now or in the past, in a season of waiting? Describe this time to your group and share how you felt through it. What was hardest about this
