



Advent

Title: Unwrap Unexpected Hope

Main Scriptures: Luke 1

Will you give Jesus your *hopeless list* today?

Hope is expectation and it is action. The object and basis of hope determine the strength and certainty of the act of hoping. The biblical reality of hope is based on Almighty God Himself—who He is, what He is like, His Word, His promises and how He acts in the world. We can have a certain and sure hope because of Jesus.

When you realize Jesus brings unexpected hope to unexpected places, you can become *hope full* in a *hope less* world and bring that *hope* to unexpected places.

Lord Jesus, I'm asking You to bring Your hope to this person, place, or situation today.

Unwrap Unexpected Hope | November 25 & 26

Small Group Sermon Study | Luke 1:11-18, 62-66

Prayer: *Father, in Jesus' name, through the Holy Spirit, we invite you to come now. Speak to us, teach us, and transform us. As we read, discuss, and reflect on Your Word we seek to know and experience deeper life in You. Amen.*

Icebreaker: Can you think of a time in your life where you experienced a powerful sense of hope?

Read Luke 1:11-18 and Luke 1:62-66 together. From the Scripture and notes from the sermon, discuss the following:

1. As you consider the scriptures in Luke and the sermon, what words, thoughts, or pictures come to mind?
2. In light of the many things in this world and our lives that can lead to hopelessness, loneliness, pain, scars, and so on. How do we view these through the lens of our hope in Jesus? How do we view these things with an expectation of God's actions, and live with certainty of His redemption of the things that are broken?
3. What is one person, place or situation that is on your heart today that needs the hope of Jesus?

Personal Reflection:

- Take a minute and consider, what are the things in your life that make up your "hopelessness list"? (The things that make you feel like God has forgotten you, like He doesn't see you, hear you, or is not active in your life.)
- Now take a minute and ask the Holy Spirit to remind you of what should be on your "hope board". (Reminders of the things God has done or is doing to remind you that He has not forgotten you, He does see you, hear you, and is indeed active in your life.)
- What if Jesus wants to bring His hope to the most unexpected place in your life? We can invite the miraculous hope of Jesus to come and fill that place today. In what specific way(s) might God be inviting you to receive His hope this week as we all enter in together into a time of prayer and fasting?

Prayer: *Dear Lord, we can often be impatient and so limited. We try to control things in our lives, and challenges and unexpected troubles, trouble us. Help us to hold on to hope. To trust that difficult circumstances can accomplish more to shape our character than having everything go how we envision it. Help us trust that through the difficulties, by Your wise and loving hands, You forge patience, steadfastness, and fortitude. May we learn to wait on You, to hope in You, to trust in You, to delight ourselves in You, and to commit our ways to You each day. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.*