

Hope

We lament and long while trusting the One who is coming.

SERIES SUMMARY

So much of Christmas is best expressed in song. That was true from the start, when Mary praised God as she anticipated the birth of the Messiah, and a multitude of angels proclaimed good news to shepherds.

Over the centuries, Christians have written carols that echo the story, giving voice to our deepest longings—for light in the darkness, peace in our divisions, joy amid sorrow, and love that comes near.

This Advent, let's join the song, proclaiming hope, peace, joy, and love.

ICEBREAKER

Are you the type who wants to figure out what their presents will be? Or do you prefer to delay finding out until it's time?

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:57–80
Zechariah's Song

CREEKSIDE Curriculum

LEARNING FROM HIS STORY

1. Is serving God “without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days” still how we think of the *why* behind our salvation (v74-75)?
2. Why is it important to connect our personal stories to God’s bigger story like Zechariah did?
3. How would you distinguish biblical hope, like Zechariah sang about, in contrast to the way society typically uses the word?

EXAMINING OUR OWN STORY

4. How have past promises fed your hope for the future?
5. Can you share about an instance when you found hope in the midst of long waiting? What would you say sparked that hope?
6. When do you find it hardest to hope?

WRITING A NEW STORY

7. What can we do to help cultivate or make it easier to have hope?
8. Can you brainstorm a few ways to highlight hope in your home as you celebrate Christmas this year?
9. Make a list of people or groups of people who need hope right now that your group can team up to pray for this Christmas!

TAKING TIME TO PRAY

God of all hope, you know what we long for and where we have grown weary of waiting. Remind us of your faithfulness, and teach us to trust your promises while so much remains unfinished. Amen.

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