



PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE



ADVENT SERIES — *The Gift Has Come*



Week 1 — Hope Has a Name

Scripture: Isaiah 9:6; Romans 15:13

Opening Prayer

Gracious God,

As we enter this Advent season, help us slow down long enough to notice what You are doing. In a world filled with uncertainty and waiting, fix our hearts on the true source of hope—Jesus Christ. Open our minds to understand Your Word and open our hearts to trust You more deeply. May hope rise in us today, not because life is easy, but because You are faithful. In Jesus' name, amen.

Introduction

Advent is a season of waiting, expectation, and preparation. Long before Jesus was born, God's people waited for a promise to be fulfilled—not because God was absent, but because God was faithful and working according to His plan.

Biblical hope is not wishful thinking. It is confidence anchored in God's promises. Advent reminds us that hope is not an idea or a feeling—**hope has a name, and His name is Jesus.**

Key Truth for Today

Our hope is not rooted in circumstances, but in Christ.

POINT 1 — THE WORLD NEEDED HOPE

♦ 1.1 — Humanity Lived in Darkness and Fear

Before Christ, sin left the world confused, fearful, and broken—spiritually desperate for light.

 Notes:

♦ 1.2 — Hope Was Promised Before It Appeared

God spoke hope through prophecy long before it was fulfilled. Waiting did not mean abandonment.

 Notes:

♦ 1.3 — God's Plan Was Unfolding Unseen

Even when people could not see it, God was faithfully working behind the scenes.

 Notes:

 *Isaiah 9:6*

POINT 2 — JESUS IS GOD’S ANSWER TO HOPELESSNESS

♦ 2.1 — Hope Arrived Quietly but Powerfully

Jesus came humbly—not loudly—but His arrival changed everything.



Notes:

♦ 2.2 — Christ Offers Hope That Survives Suffering

Jesus does not remove all pain, but He redeems it and sustains us through it.



Notes:

♦ 2.3 — His Presence Changes How We Face Tomorrow

Knowing Christ walks with us replaces fear with confidence and trust.



Notes:

Romans 15:13

POINT 3 — WE LIVE AS PEOPLE OF HOPE

♦ 3.1 — Hope Strengthens Endurance

Hope empowers believers to persevere without surrendering to despair.

 Notes:

♦ 3.2 — Hope Shapes How We Treat Others

Hope-filled people offer grace, patience, and compassion.

 Notes:

♦ 3.3 — Hope Reminds Us God Is Not Finished

Waiting is not wasted—God completes what He begins.

 Notes:

 *Philippians 1:6*

Workbook Reflection

Complete the sentence below:

“Right now, I need to trust God for _____, because my hope is in Christ.”

 Write your response:

Discussion Questions

1. How does biblical hope differ from optimism?
2. Which subpoint challenged or encouraged you most today?
3. How can you live as a person of hope this week?

 Notes:

Closing Encouragement

As we begin Advent, remember this: hope is not dependent on what is happening around you—it is anchored in who is with you. Jesus has already come, and He is still present. Let hope steady your heart, anchor your faith, and lift your eyes as we continue this Advent journey together.

Closing Prayer

Faithful God,

Thank You for being our source of hope. As we wait, teach us to trust You. As we reflect, deepen our faith. Shape our hearts during this Advent season so we may receive Jesus with joy, humility, and confidence. We place our hope not in this world, but in You alone. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Personal Practice (Homework)

This week:

- Pray daily: *"Lord, help me place my hope in You."*
- Read Isaiah 9:2–7 slowly and reflectively
- Identify one way to reflect hope to someone else