



INTRO

This is the start of our advent series. Advent means arrival and this is the season where we get to celebrate the arrival of Jesus—both His first coming and anticipating His second coming.

As you think about this coming season, where do you expect God to show up?

How can our awareness of His presence and our anticipation of His second coming prepare us to share his hope, joy, peace, and love with the people around us?

IDEA 1

Jennifer presented us with three images of hope. The first was from Isaiah 9:1-7: A light in the darkness.

What is a current darkness you are experiencing?

Jennifer pointed out that our hope, the light in the darkness, is not something that we can do—it is the Lord—and His passionate commitment—that will make this happen. **So how do we live in the light and bring that hope to others? Jennifer shared a few ideas, take some time to brainstorm others:**

The next image of hope that Jennifer shared was an anchor in the storm (Hebrews 6:18-19). **What does it mean to you to think about the hope of Jesus to being an anchor, something that holds us steady and still, in the midst of the storm?**

How do/can we hold tight to our anchor?

IDEA 2

The third image was of deep roots and a flourishing tree (Jeremiah 17:7-8). If we want to live with such hope and confidence in God that we have a flourishing and fruitful life, then we have to be people who are prepared to live in a world where hope has gone dark.
How does our hope combat the world's despair?

How does hope equip us to live differently?

EXPERIENCING GOD TOGETHER

Spend some time meditating on the three images of Hope: light, anchor, and deep roots that lead to a flourishing life.

Share together any other images that come to mind.

Take some time to share your gratitude to God for the hope that He brings.

PRACTICE THIS WEEK

Write out the benediction that Jennifer shared at the end of her sermon. Make it personal to you and put it somewhere you will see often this week. Make a point to ask God to make his hope overflow in your life!

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace as we trust in him, so that we may overflow with confident hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. It is light in our darkness, an anchor in the storm, a tree planted by streams of water. This hope is born out of God's love for us and guaranteed by his Spirit. The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven's Armies will make this happen.