

HOPE

has a name

GRACESPRING GROWTH GUIDE





DECEMBER 16 – 30, 2018

WEEK 1
THE NEED FOR HOPE

WEEK 2
THE LOOK OF HOPE

WEEK 3
HOPE FOR THE NEW YEAR



The Need for **HOPE**

WEEK 1 | DECEMBER 16, 2018

DEVOTIONAL

Christmas is a special time of year. For some that might mean decorations, Christmas songs, and gifts. For believers around the world it is a time to stop and linger in anticipation of the good news of the birth of Jesus.

In this gospel moment, however, the broken world still waits in eager anticipation for peace, for joy, for love. In our culture, echoes of the Israelites who waited in silence for 400 years for the promise of Messiah can still be found. We often look forward to the good news of Jesus, yet fill our hearts and minds with promises from the world around us instead of anticipating the true hope of Jesus Christ in our lives.

The world around us fills this void with consumerism, selfishness, and brokenness. This can feel hopeless, but Jesus has come to give us great hope! As believers we have the opportunity to join together and declare that the need for this season is a true reformation of our hearts and minds as we declare together that Christ, Emmanuel - God with us, has come to infiltrate our lives and give us hope. In this season, we have a chance to join together in declaring that good news to the nations!

PRAYER

Lord, in this holy season of prayer and song and laughter, we praise you for the great wonders you have sent us: for shining star and angel's song, for infant's cry in lowly manger. We praise you for the Word made flesh in a little Child. We behold his glory, and are bathed in its radiance.

Be with us as we sing the ironies of Christmas, the incomprehensible comprehended, the poetry made hard fact, the helpless Babe who cracks the world asunder. We kneel before you shepherds, innkeepers, wise men. Help us to rise bigger than we are. Amen.

In This Holy Season - Author Unknown

READING PLAN

As you read through the following verses each day, keep a journal close by and write out your thoughts and reflections. How does this passage give you hope? How does this passage provide hope for those around us? Who is the scripture talking about? Why would the writer include these thoughts in scripture? How does it apply to your life today? What can these scriptures teach us about our need for a savior in this season? How is he good news for today and for tomorrow?

Monday: Isaiah 9:2-7, Isaiah 11

Tuesday: Jeremiah 33:14-16, Matthew 24:30-31

Wednesday: John 14:1-3, Revelation 1:7-8

Thursday: Luke 1:26-55

Friday: Luke 2:1-21

Saturday: Reflect and Catch Up

SONG OF REFLECTION:

Listen to this song and reflect this week on the Hope that Emmanuel provides!

www.gracespringchurch.org/hope1

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
O come, Thou Day-Spring
Come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, o Israel
O come, desire of nations bind
All peoples in one heart and mind
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease
Fill the whole world with Heaven's peace
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel



The Look of HOPE

WEEK 2 | DECEMBER 23, 2018

DEVOTIONAL

The human heart cries out for hope. We love stories of redemption. We love stories where the writers ask us to put our hopes in a character who will defy all logic and challenges to bring restoration or resolution to a situation. This is why our human hearts can tend to look for all kinds of different objects or people to place our hopes in. It is impossible to live our lives without putting our hopes into something. The Christmas season is no different. Kids wait eagerly to open presents with the hope that this year will be better than last. We might put our hope in gadgets, or sports teams, or people, but these substitutes will always let us down. The real look of hope came in the form of a humble baby, wrapped in swaddling clothes, laid in a manger. When we place our hope in Him and His Kingdom, we find fulfillment, restoration, and redemption. He's the reason we can have real hope that lasts in this season.

PRAYER

God of hope, who brought love into this world, be the love that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought peace into this world, be the peace that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought joy into this world, be the joy that dwells between us.

God of hope, the rock we stand upon, be the centre, the focus of our lives always, and particularly this Advent time. - Unknown

READING PLAN

As you read through the following verses each day, keep a journal close by and write out your thoughts and reflections. How does this passage give you hope? How does this passage provide hope for those around us? Who is the scripture talking about? Why would the writer include these thoughts in scripture? How does it apply to your life today? What can these scriptures teach us about our need for a savior in this season? How is he good news for today and for tomorrow?

Monday: Micah 3:1-4, Matthew 1:18-25

Tuesday: Matthew 2:1-12

Wednesday: John 1:1-18

Thursday: Isaiah 40:1-11

Friday: Titus 3:3-7, Isaiah 9:2-7

Saturday: Reflect and Catch Up

SONG OF REFLECTION:

Listen to this song and reflect this week on who Jesus is and how he provides hope!

www.gracespringchurch.org/hope2

What child is this who laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping
Whom Angels greet
With anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping

Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and lamb are feeding
Good Christians fear
For sinners here
The silent Word is pleading

This, this is Christ the King
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste, haste to bring Him laud
The babe, the Son of Mary

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh
Come peasant, king to own Him
The King of Kings salvation brings
Let loving hearts enthrone Him

Nails, spears shall pierce Him through
The cross He bore for me, for you
Hail, hail the word made flesh
The babe, the Son of Mary



HOPE *for the New Year*

WEEK 3 | DECEMBER 30, 2018

DEVOTIONAL

Think about a New Years Resolution you've made in the past. How did it go? Was it something that was life changing, or something that hung around for a few weeks? Sometimes it's so easy for the new year to give us hope in new behaviors, new solutions, and new ways of life. Think about New Years Eve. People coming together to celebrate the past year and ring in the new one. Maybe the new year will be filled with new life, new decisions, and new hopes and dreams. Maybe we're excited to ditch the old year and push forward to new and better things. The beauty of our walk with Christ is that there is always time for new hope and new life. Every day is a new opportunity to breathe in His hope and walk in his fullness. This year for new years, truly reflect on how he is your hope. How will true hope change how you look at the year in front of you?

PRAYER

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

—St. Francis of Assisi

HOPE for the New Year

WEEK 3 | DECEMBER 30, 2018

READING PLAN

As you read through the following verses each day, keep a journal close by and write out your thoughts and reflections. How does this passage give you hope? How does this passage provide hope for those around us? Who is the scripture talking about? Why would the writer include these thoughts in scripture? How does it apply to your life today? What can these scriptures teach us about our need for a savior in this season? How is he good news for today and for tomorrow?

Monday: Romans 12:1-8

Tuesday: Romans 12:9-21

Wednesday: Ephesians 2:1-10

Thursday: Psalm 71:1-24

Friday: Psalm 62:1-12

Saturday: Reflect and Catch Up

SONG OF REFLECTION:

Listen to this song and reflect this week on who Jesus is and how he provides hope for the new year!

www.gracespringchurch.org/hope3

Peace be still, You are near
There's nowhere we can go
That You won't shine redemption's light
Our guilt withdrawn

As you rise, we come alive
The grave has lost, the old is gone

And You're making all things new
You are making all things new
You are making all things new
And we are free

Hope is found, You are here
Our hearts forever sealed
By this love that came for us
Now we are Yours

Your love never ending
Your grace never failing
Redemption is calling us home