

9. Advent: "Hope"

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. -Romans 15:13

⁵ My soul, wait in silence for God only, for my hope is from Him. ⁶ He only is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold; I shall not be shaken. ⁷ On God my salvation and my glory rest; The rock of my strength, my refuge is in God. ⁸ Trust in Him at all times, O people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us.. ⁹ Men of low degree are only vanity and men of rank are a lie; In the balances they go up; they are together lighter than breath. ¹⁰ Do not trust in oppression and do not vainly hope in robbery; If riches increase, do not set your heart upon them. ¹¹ Once God has spoken; Twice I have heard this: That power belongs to God; ¹² And lovingkindness is Yours, O Lord, For You recompense a man according to his work. -Psalm 62:5-12

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead -1 Peter 1:3 (NIV)

Watch the video from The Bible Project "Hope" prior to or at the start of the study.

- 1. In what ways did this video give you insight into the difference between a worldly "hope" and "hope" as the Bible speaks of it?
- 2. Read Romans 15:13. In what ways do you see joy and peace (our previous Advent themes) tied to hope? What insights can we learn about hope from this verse?
- 3. Read Psalm 62:5-12. David often found himself in long seasons of waiting on God in hope throughout his tumultuous life. What can we learn about what he refused to hope in and what shaped his hope in God?
- 4. The apostle Peter speaks of the hope found in the gospel as a "living hope". Read 1 Peter 1:3. Why do you think Peter uses "living" to describe the hope we have? How might this be relevant to you today and the way you see the larger gospel story?