



Christmas at The Cove

Week 1 – Hope is... Study Guide

Hope is waiting expectantly for a future event or thing. Hope isn't a quick resolution, but it is sustained over time. Christmas reminds us that hope can be found even in the darkest situation. Before he was born, there was hope among God's people for Jesus' coming. Because he came, we can have hope for a better life now and eternal life in Christ. Hope takes faith to the next level, it doesn't find its end in a few hours or days, it continues.

1. As we approach this Christmas season, what are you hoping for?

2. **Read Hebrews 11:1 and Romans 8:24-25.** How are faith and hope similar? How are they different?

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”
- Romans 15:13 (ESV)

3. **Read Romans 15:13.** According to this passage, what is the source of lasting hope? How is this different than other sources we look to?

“I rise before dawn and cry for help; I hope in your words.”
- Psalm 119:147 (ESV)

4. **Read Psalm 119:147 and Psalm 62:5.** We learned this week that we need to “preserve” or “nurture” our hope to keep it from fading. These passages give us a strategy to maintaining our hope. What are a few of the steps listed in these verses?

5. How can you improve on your strategy to “keep hope alive” in your life? Discuss what steps you can take and how the group can help you take them.