

December 3, 2023

**THIS CHRISTMAS: WEEK 1
FINDING HOPE**

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

Big Idea:

The hope we have in our coming King dramatically changes how we live today. Our confidence that Jesus has broken the power of sin and death and is coming again to restore the earth dramatically shapes how we approach our suffering, live with purpose, and respond in obedience.

The Challenge:

Spend some time reflecting on where you place your hope? Is it in multiple things? Be honest with yourself. No matter how big or small, how does this hope affect how you live today? What would change in your life if you were to place more and more of your hope in Jesus Christ?

Pastoral Prayer for this Message:

I pray that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, our lives would bear witness to the hope we have in Jesus Christ as we respond to him with whole-life obedience, trusting that, in doing so, we secure our freedom; living with purpose, seeking to manifest the rule and reign of Jesus in our midst; and, lastly, approaching our suffering in confidence that Jesus broke the power of sin and death and is coming again to restore us back to the lives we've always longed for.

Questions for Discussion:

1. Why do you think people are shaped by their views of their own future? How does our hope affect how we live today?

Mary's Hope & Response:

2. Gabriel announces that Mary's son is the "coming King". What do you think this meant to her?
3. Mary's response to Gabriel's words is, "I am a servant of the Lord. May your word to me be fulfilled." Why do you think she responded this way?

Our Hope & Response:

4. What are some things you place your hope in? How does this affect how you live today?
5. Scripture tells us that, on the cross, Jesus broke the power of sin and death, and He is coming again to restore the earth. What significance does this have for you?
6. 2 Corinthians 1 says God grants us the Holy Spirit "...as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come." How does your experience of the Holy Spirit give you confidence in the age to come?
7. How does our future hope in Jesus Christ affect the following:
 - a. How you approach your suffering?
 - b. How you live with purpose?
 - c. How you respond in obedience?