



Welcome to the Christmas Toolkit

This devotional series serves as a tool to guide your heart towards Jesus Christ in this season. Each devotional will prompt you to read the account of Jesus' birth, reflect on the meaning of this truth, and respond to His hope, joy, peace, and love. You can do this individually, with your family, a co-worker or your community group. We pray that it is a blessing for you this Christmas!

Week 1: Hope

READ

Matthew 1:18–25 — Hope

REFLECT

Have you ever felt hopeless? If so, you are not alone. Whether for personal reasons or due to the general state of the world, many people today are wondering if there is any hope—and even asking what they can put their hope in. The Advent season itself is intended to create this longing in us—the shortening days, the cooling temps, the anticipation of the year's end. But this is all a setup for the miracle to come: Christ is born! Matthew highlights Jesus as Hope-bringer in his account of His birth. By this time in Israel's history, they were a people longing for hope. After numerous years of slavery, exile, and oppression, Matthew simply records: “Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way” (1:18). The Savior of the world arrived in the midst of their suffering, bringing hope for restoration as God's people.

The glorious gift which we get to celebrate this season is that Jesus came for us, too! We get to be a part of God's people through the miracle of this birth, which came in such an unexpected way. Joseph did not realize that Jesus' supernatural conception was a miracle of the Holy Spirit until he was told by an angel. The hope that God gives is not something we can see with our natural eyes. But, in Christ, we understand that He is our hope—and the only hope for the world. We can rejoice in hope this Advent season because Christ was born, Christ is risen, and Christ will come again!

1. Have you felt hopeless for any reason this past year? Why do you think you felt this way? What factors caused it?
2. Looking back now, can you identify ways God may have been working to bring you hope in that season?
3. Why do you think God uses unexpected means to bring hope, as we see in Matthew's narrative of Jesus' birth?

RESPOND

Day 1: Look for ways to hope

- Acknowledge the moments today when you felt more negative than positive about yourself, other people, or the world in general. Actively counter these moments with prayer that God would give you a hopeful disposition, because Christ has come.



Week 1: Hope

RESPOND

Day 2: Listen and Reflect

- Listen closely to a Christmas song that speaks of hope, focusing on the lyrics and what they reveal about God's gift to us.

Day 3: Extend a Hand

- Reach out to someone who could use encouragement today, offering a simple message of care and hope.

Day 4: Rethink Your Day

- Reflect on a recent plan that didn't go as expected, and consider what God might be teaching you through it.

Day 5: Joy in the Present

- Spend a few quiet moments in prayer, thanking God specifically for one way He's brought you hope this season.