

ADVENT SERIES – WEEK ONE SUMMARY

Role of the Prophets

- Call us back to a deeper conviction that God loves us, invites us back into relationship with Him, and REMAINS WITH US ALWAYS
- Hope rests on the foundation of His presence with us.

Jeremiah

- Spoke God's Word of warning AND promise of God's love and mercy
- Living in HOPE means I can be confident God remains with me in the struggle.
- Jeremiah 29:11-13 "I know the plans I have for you, plans for peace.... Reserving a future full of hope for you."

Mary and Joseph – Witnesses of Living Hope

- The Angel's assurance (The Lord is with you) enabled Mary to speak her "YES."
- Mary was able to grab onto hope in the midst of her world being turned upside down.
- Joseph overcame all difficulties by leaning into God's assurance that He would never abandon him.
- They stood on the shoulders of giants who kept this hope alive through the centuries.

Our Call to Release Hope in the Lives of Others

- We are to imitate Jesus whose presence opened the hearts of others to hope.
- We are the "face of God" for those we encounter.
- We have the privilege and responsibility to bring those in need to Jesus.

Questions for Reflection:

- How do I grab on to hope in the midst of Covid and other suffering and struggles?
- Who are my "giants" who teach me how to hope?
- Who might I reach out to with a message of hope and encouragement?
- For whom can I specifically pray this Advent season?

Scripture References for Prayer

- Psalm 16:9 "So my heart rejoices, my soul delights, my body too will rest in hope, for you will not abandon me."
- Psalm 147:11 "The Lord's pleasure is in those who fear him, in those who hope in his faithful love."
- Romans 5:5 "Hope will not let us down because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."
- 1 Peter 3:15 "Always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope you have."