



## A People of Hope

**Series:** Hope of All the Earth

**Scripture:** Luke 2:1-3

The church calendar invites us to take a different \_\_\_\_\_ during this season—one of \_\_\_\_\_.

- Advent invites us to remember what God has done and to wait for what God will do.

We are a people of \_\_\_\_\_.

- Our hope is a confident \_\_\_\_\_ and assured future \_\_\_\_\_ in God's character and promises.

*"In those days..."*

- These words recognize the deep \_\_\_\_\_ of their \_\_\_\_\_.
  - The people of Israel are under Roman \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Census brings conflicted feelings for many.
- Israel hasn't had a \_\_\_\_\_ prophet for around 400 years.

There is \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_.

- God was already at \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Luke 1:16
  - Luke 1:26

When the darkness seems \_\_\_\_\_, God is still at work in and \_\_\_\_\_ God's people.

- Romans 4:17-18
- Philippians 2:12-16

**Start talking.**

- When you think about the Christmas season, what tends to make you feel rushed or overwhelmed?
- Describe a time when you felt like you were “in those days”—a season that felt dark or heavy. What helped you keep going?

**Start thinking:**

- Advent invites us to wait while the culture pushes us to hurry. Why do you think waiting is such an important spiritual discipline?
- In Luke 2:1–3, why is it significant that the passage begins with the words “in those days”?
- How does understanding Israel’s history under Roman occupation deepen the meaning of Jesus’ arrival?
- Why do you think God often works quietly in the background when circumstances seem darkest?
- What does Abraham’s example (Romans 4:17–18) reveal about the nature of biblical hope?

**Start Sharing:**

- Where do you personally feel the darkness pressing in right now? How does biblical hope speak into that space?
- Has there been a time in your life when you recognized that God was at work even before you could see the results? Share the story.
- What helps you hold onto hope when your circumstances seem hopeless?
- In what ways is God inviting you to “believe anyway,” like Abraham did?
- What does it look like for you to “shine like stars” (Phil. 2:15) in your current relationships and routines?

**Start Praying:**

*Heavenly Father, I thank You that in the midst of all human plans, Your purposes for salvation cannot be thwarted. I praise You that Your promises are fulfilled in Jesus, and pray that You would open my eyes to see the wonders of Your saving work. I ask that You fill me with the joy and peace of Your presence, and guide me to glorify and praise You for all You have done through Your Son, Jesus. Amen.*

**Start Doing.** Commit to a step and live it out this week

- What is one practical way you can practice waiting and paying attention to God during Advent this week?
- Where can you intentionally bring God’s hope into someone else’s life—through service, encouragement, generosity, or presence?
- What “material” (gift, skill, or opportunity) might God want to use in you to weave His hope into someone’s story this season?
- As a group, name one person or situation you will collectively pray for this week where God’s hope is desperately needed.