



advent week one

hope

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

- Luke 1:26 - 38



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discussion/questions:

- How does Jesus offer you hope?
- What do you hope for?
- Where have you been putting your hope this year?
- Is there something you've been hoping for that hasn't happened yet?
- How does the hope of Jesus affect you while you wait?

prayer

Each year where many of us experience having hopes disappointed or delayed. Is that you?

Pray a simple prayer to the God of hope, bringing your hopes and your feelings resulting from hopes deferred (or broken), to Him. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal His love to you in this season and to give you the gift of hope as you choose to keep trusting Him in the waiting.

Hebrews 10:23 - *Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful.*

kids

An anchor is a sturdy piece of metal that anchors a ship in port. It holds it right where it needs to be. An anchor is basically any item that holds you in place, no matter what is swirling around you.

Our hope in Jesus is an anchor in our lives. No matter what storms beat against us, no matter what is falling or shifting around us, God is sure. And God is steady.

We celebrate the coming of hope at Christmas time with the birth of Jesus. This tiny baby in a manger represents the anchored hope of everyone; hope of living life with God, hope of eternal life.

Hebrews 6:19 - *We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.*

You may want to draw an anchor to put on your fridge to remind of your hope in Jesus this Christmas.

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