

# Advent of Hope

1st Sunday of Advent: December 2

<p>Read</p>	<p>Isaiah 9:6-7; 11:1-10          Luke 1:26-38          Isaiah 7:10-14          Matthew 1:18-24</p>
<p>Review/Reflect</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How did John the Baptist prepare the way for Christ? Why was a “voice” preparing the way necessary?</li> <li>• What does Immanuel mean? Why is this significant?</li> <li>• Why does Mary and Joseph’s genealogy matter? What prophecies did this fulfill?</li> <li>• How did the Virgin Mary respond to the news that she would become pregnant? Why would this news be shocking?</li> <li>• How did Joseph react to the angel’s instructions not to end the betrothal?</li> </ul>
<p>Apply          (Choose 1-2 questions to discuss; or do them all if time permits)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John the Baptist “prepared the way.” Look up the word “prepare.” What does preparation have to do with anticipation? How can we prepare our hearts for Christmas?</li> <li>• Jesus would inherit the throne of David and fulfill the promise given to David centuries before. How does knowing that God keeps his promises bring you peace?</li> <li>• Each name listed in Isaiah 9:6-7 provides a window into understanding the nature, the authority, and ultimately the person of Jesus. Circle each name in your Bible. Which name stands out to you? Pick one name and meditate on its meaning. How does this attribute of Jesus apply to your life?</li> <li>• When God calls you to do something unexpected or even shocking, how do you respond? What questions do you ask? Explain.</li> <li>• In Luke 1:35, the angel says to Mary the “Holy Spirit shall come upon you.” When God called you, he also sent the Holy Spirit to empower you. How have you seen this to be true in your in your life?</li> </ul>
<p>Pray</p>	<p>Read Isaiah 9:6-7. Take a moment in prayer and make this verse personal: Thank you Jesus for being wonderful to me. Thank you for being my counselor when I am in need. Thank you for being my mighty God when I feel weak. Thank you for always being there for me, my Everlasting Father. Thank you for being my Prince of Peace, calming the storms of my life and granting me rest. Amen.</p>