

# ADVENT

## Leader Conversation Guide – Advent: Hope

### Main Idea

This week, Pastor Curt delivered an inspiring message on the theme of HOPE as we continue through the Advent season. He reminded us that Christian hope is not wishful thinking but a firm and reliable anchor for our souls, rooted in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Hebrews 6:19-20). Pastor Curt highlighted that this hope reaches into places we cannot go, providing strength and renewal for our journey (Isaiah 40:31).

As we reflect on this message, let's consider how shifting our focus from life's challenges to the eternal promises of God can empower us to live with confidence and joy. Together, we'll explore what it means to cling to this living hope and allow it to shape our present and future.

**We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf.**

HEBREWS 6:19-20

### Make It Practical:

#### Christian Hope is Reliable

- Christian hope is not the same as wishful thinking. It is rooted in the promises of God and the work of Jesus.
- Hebrews 6:19-20 describes hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure, which connects us to the eternal.

#### Christian Hope is Powerful

- John Maxwell's insight: "When there is no hope for the future, there's no power for the present."
- Our hope for the future gives us strength to face today's challenges.

#### Christian Hope is Renewable

- Isaiah 40:31 reminds us that those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength, enabling them to endure and thrive.
- Renewing our hope requires us to focus on eternal truths rather than temporary circumstances.

## Talk About It

### Reflecting on Hope:

- Hebrews 6:19-20 describes hope as “an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.” In what ways have you experienced hope as an anchor in your life? How does this image deepen your understanding of Christian hope?

### Biblical vs. Wishful Thinking:

- Pastor Curt highlighted that many confuse hope with wishful thinking. How does Biblical hope, rooted in Jesus, differ from wishful thinking in your daily life? Can you share a situation where Biblical hope gave you strength?

### Hope and Perspective:

- Isaiah 40:31 encourages us to focus on the Lord to renew our strength. How can shifting your perspective from current circumstances to eternal hope change the way you handle challenges?

**But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not  
grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.**

ISAIAH 40:31

## Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the living hope we have in Jesus, an anchor for our souls that is firm and secure. We give You praise for Your sacrifice and the promise of an eternal inheritance that never fades. Help us to place our confidence in You, especially when circumstances feel uncertain. Holy Spirit, renew our strength as we fix our eyes on Christ, the founder and perfecter of our faith. Let Your hope fill us with peace for today and courage for tomorrow, reminding us that nothing can separate us from Your love. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

## Leader Tip

Christmas Eve Services are happening on December 23rd at 7:00p (all locations) and 24th at 3:30 and 5:00p (all locations except Mount Joy).