

# HOPE OF JESUS: LONG AWAITED & LONGED FOR

*Week 3 Advent 2020*

God's people suffered, forgot, and wandered from His promise for centuries & millennia, which only led to a deeper aching for true hope, only to be found in Jesus

*Start with prayer. Pray that the Holy Spirit would open your heart and mind to the Truth of Scripture and what God is revealing to you through His Word.*

## **DAY 1- ABRAHAM AND SARA, LONGING FOR GOD'S PROMISE TO COME TO FRUITION**

*Read: Genesis 15:1-6*

*Reflect & Pray:* God promised Abraham (Abram) and Sara (Sarai) that He would bless them with a son, and their offspring will build a multitude of nations that continue for generations. Abraham and Sara longed for a child but God did not give them a son in their timing. He works in His timing and His timing alone. Issac was born 25 years after He made the Covenant with Abraham (when Abraham was 100 & Sara was 90). What are some of God's promises you are longing to come true in your life? Like Abraham, how do you continue to believe God when you long for something? How do you continue to believe God while you long for Jesus' return? Pray that God will grow your faith. Pray for discernment on how to wait and prepare faithfully for something you long for.

## **DAY 2 - JONAH, FROM REBELLION TO LONGING**

*Read: Jonah 1:17-2:10*

*Reflect & Pray:* Jonah had a direct mission from God to go to Nineveh (Jonah's enemy) and warn them of the destruction to come if they didn't turn from their wicked ways. But instead Jonah ran as fast as he could in the opposite direction- and ended up in the belly of a big fish for three days and three nights, until he surrendered. Where is God calling you that you are resistant? Why are you running away? How does God still meet you in your rebellion? Re-read Jonah's prayer in Chapter 2 and pray your own prayer calling out to God.

## **DAY 3- ISRAEL- LONGING FOR GOD IN THE WILDERNESS**

*Read: Numbers 14:1-11*

*Reflect & Pray:* Israelites were God's Chosen People. The people who were enslaved by Pharaoh and the Egyptians and freed by God. The people who watched Moses part the Red Sea. The people who God promised the "land of milk and honey" (Exodus 3:8). The people who almost immediately started to complain and look for something to Worship other than God. The people who longed for comfort, familiarity, idols over God. As a response to their unfaithfulness- they wandered through the desert for 40 years. But God was still with them. God was still faithful, God still kept His promises. When you are wondering in your own wilderness, what is your attitude towards God? Do you trust God or complain like the Israelites? How do you trust God in the midst of a season where you feel lost and unsure of what the next step is? How does God bring you comfort? Pray and invite God into the wilderness you are in. Surrender any hurts or fears about being in the wilderness.

## **DAY 4- PROMISE OF ETERNAL LIFE**

*Read: Luke 3: 1-18*

*Reflect & Pray:* John knew he wasn't the Chosen One, but He did live with the trust and knowledge that the Messiah was coming. He preached to the people to begin to prepare- the One from the prophecies, the One they have been waiting for, the One who they longed for was coming. John preached and baptized to crowds, yet he remained humble. He knew that He was not the one who could save and reconcile the world, but invited others along to prepare for when the Messiah (Jesus) did arrive. What directions does John give to those who are waiting for the Messiah? How does that apply for us as a church today as we wait for Jesus? How does that apply to you (and your family) specifically? Pray for the lost in your life. Pray for opportunities to pursue your mission as a Christ follower. Pray for your House Church to come together in unity and opportunities for you to pursue together.

## **DAY 5- GOD IS OUR REFUGE**

Read and pray through Psalm 91. Watch the sermon to prepare for celebrating the third week of Advent with your House Church.