

# HOPE OF JESUS: DELIVERED & HELD

Week 4 Advent 2020

After generations upon generations of hard waiting, humanity received hope in the flesh: Jesus, who would rise to defeat sin & redeem those who had been longing for a savior

*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- IMMANUEL, GOD WITH US**

*Read: Matthew 1:23, Philippians 2: 6-11, Hebrews 4:14-16*

*Reflect & Pray:* Jesus was to be called Immanuel which means, "God with us." It is important to remember that Jesus isn't just with us in Spirit, but He was with us in the flesh. Jesus was born, had emotions, had family and friends, worked, had a ministry, suffered and died. Why is it important that Jesus was with us in the flesh? What does it mean that Jesus is God with us? How has Jesus been there for you in the past? How does He promise to continue to be with us in the present and in the future? If you feel far from God, consider if you have any sin to repent of. Pray and invite His presence into your life. Spend time reveling in God's Glory that He has invited into through Immanuel.

## **DAY 2 - JESUS BEATS SIN AND DEATH**

*Read: Ephesians 2:1-10, Philippians 2:3-8*

*Reflect & Pray:* The birth of Jesus is the start of His life here on Earth, but He defeated sin and death by His death and resurrection on the cross. Why was Jesus the only acceptable substitute? What are the things that cause you to try and "work" or "earn" your salvation instead of relying on grace? What has God revealed to you over the past year. Do you have a greater dependence on God or are you looking for cheap substitutes for satisfaction? Confess those to God. Praise Him and be thankful for the work that Jesus did on the Cross. Take time to reflect on the Gospel message and how it has changed your life or how it could change your life.

## **DAY 3- SHARING THE GOOD NEWS**

*Read: Luke 2:8-20*

*Reflect & Pray:* How often do we think our role isn't that important - That someone can do the job better than us. That goes against everything that God has shown us. He doesn't only use the most powerful, the most influential, or the one who has their act together. He used everyday people to be the first to hear and then go share the news that the Messiah has come. How does God choosing to use the shepherds to announce the birth of Jesus inform and instruct your expectations on how God wants to use you? How is God calling you to go and share the Good News? Who is God calling you to share the Gospel with? What are tangibles actions you can take to serve them?

## **DAY 4- DELIVERANCE TO COME**

*Read: Revelations 21:1-8*

*Reflect & Pray:* What is your initial thoughts when you think of Jesus' second coming described in Revelations? Do you long for that day? Does it scare you? Does it propel you to action? It's probably a combination of all of the above. We long for the day where we get to see Jesus face to face. We are excited by a world that is not filled with sin, death, and the destruction it brings. But it also takes trust that the unknown is better than the known. That the promises of God of things to come is better than our current experiences of God. We should also feel the urgency. That there will be a judgement day and we want to Spread the Gospel to invite as many people as possible into the family of God. Praise God for His good Character and the promises He has kept and will keep when Jesus Returns. Pray for those who don't know Jesus, pray for the urgency to share the Gospel with them and that they will repent and believe.

## **DAY 5- THE LORD ENDURES FOREVER**

Read and pray through Psalm 135. Watch the sermon to prepare for celebrating the fourth week of Advent with your House Church.