



## Week 1 - The Thrill of Hope

*But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, "Abba, Father."*

Galatians 4:4-6 (NLT)

**Big Idea:** Christmas begins what Easter celebrates.

**Hope is not just for the Christmas season;** \_\_\_\_\_.

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Romans 15:13 (NIV)

**Hope is a** \_\_\_\_\_.

*God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, "Abba, Father."*

Galatians 4:5-6 (NLT)

**If hope has been lost,** \_\_\_\_\_.

*Let us seize and hold tightly the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is reliable and trustworthy and faithful [to His word].*

Hebrews 10:23 (AMP)

**Bottom Line:** Christmas celebrates \_\_\_\_\_, for \_\_\_\_\_, for \_\_\_\_\_.

## Discussion Questions

1. In what way does the holiday season bring out the worst in you?
2. The answer to darkness is light, to danger is rescue, to lethargy is vitality, to exhaustion is rest. Which of these do you think you will need most in the days and weeks ahead?
3. At Advent hope fills us with anticipation. If you knew Jesus was coming tomorrow, what would you do today?
4. If you want to be at your best and to fully enjoy the visit, how would you prepare?

- I would prepare physically by...
- I would prepare relationally by...
- I would prepare emotionally by...
- I would prepare spiritually by...

## Recommended Resources

- *Because of Bethlehem*, by Max Lucado
- *Unreasonable Hope*, by Chad Veach
- *Think, Act, Be Like Jesus*, by Randy Frazee with Robert Noland
- *Unshakable Hope*, by Max Lucado