

WARM-UP

- What is one thing you look forward to every Christmas? Why?
- Have you tried planting a seed? What made the waiting period easier?
- Tell us about one “expectation versus reality” moment you have experienced.

**WORD** *<sup>12</sup>And again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope.” <sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. **ROMANS 15:12-13***

(Read also **ISAIAH 11:1-10.**)

In the face of challenges, it is easy to lose hope and fall into despair. But no matter how impossible or difficult our situations are, there is always hope in God. Isaiah 11:1–10 shows us a beautifully detailed picture of the hope that we can all have through Christ. Hope means that even though things may seem bleak and dreary, we can look ahead in confident expectation of what is to come: the hope of salvation and the fulfillment of all of God’s promises. Today we will look at how Jesus came to bring us hope—for the future, for the present, and even over our past.

## 1 | Jesus is the source of hope for all.

*And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope."*

**ROMANS 15:12**

It is not just the Jews who found hope in Jesus as the long-expected Messiah. His plan for salvation includes the Gentiles—those who do not have a covenant with Him and were considered unclean and unworthy. Instead of seeing a hopeless end, the Gentiles found endless hope in Christ. By extension, we can hold on to the hope that Jesus extends to us—regardless of who we are or what we have done in the past. In your life, how has the hope we have in Christ helped you get through the past year? How can you use that experience to encourage others?

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## 2 | Jesus fills us with joy and peace as we believe.

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.*

**ROMANS 15:13**

As we put our trust in God, He fills us with overwhelming joy and peace that surpass all understanding. And He gives us hope that is sure and secure. To hope in Christ is to believe in Him—to look to Him in spite of all the trials we are facing. Our circumstances may look bleaker by the day, but we can always choose to believe His promises and let His hope abound in us. How has God's joy and peace changed your perspective on things? How have they comforted you in these times?

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### 3

## By the power of the Holy Spirit, we can abound in hope.

*. . . so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.* **ROMANS 15:13**

Joy, peace, and hope all come from God. And by the Holy Spirit in us, we can have abundant, overflowing hope. No matter how uncertain the future may seem, we can have hope knowing that He is with us. The hope that we have in Him is greater than whatever we have experienced in the past and whatever we are facing today. What does Psalm 62:5–6 say about the hope we have in Christ? What does Titus 2:12–14 say about your ultimate blessed hope?

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### APPLICATION

- Pause and give some thought to where you place your hope. If it is in some place other than God, surrender this to God and pray that He will be your lone source of hope.
- What are the things you can rejoice about in your life today? What are you grateful to God for?
- Think about those around you—family, friends, acquaintances—who need the hope that Jesus offers. Pray for them to have this hope in the midst of hardship.

## PRAYER

- Thank God for the eternal hope that He has given us through Jesus Christ. Thank Him that it is for all people in all circumstances and walks of life.
- Surrender the small, daily details of your life to God. Thank Him for the abundant hope He gives you through the Holy Spirit.
- Thank God for the joy and peace that He makes available to us daily. Pray that you will experience these in full measure each day and share them with others.

## NOTES

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