

WEEK 2
GOD'S
PRESENCE AND
HIS PROMISES

BIBLE STUDY

1. Where do you see examples of hope in the Old Testament? How do they offer a unique perspective on hope?

2. Carmen Joy Imes highlights the way hope is depicted in Exodus: “Christian hope is rooted in God’s *seeing*. Nothing escapes his notice. The heart of Advent is knowing that God sees a world gone wrong and that he will do something to make it right.” What’s your reaction to her observation about hope? About Advent?

3. Read **Psalm 46** with the experiences of 2020 in mind. What lines or phrases resonate with you?

4. Read **Isaiah 2:1-5; 40:1-11; 64:1-9**. Like many biblical prophecies, these passages point toward multiple layers of fulfillment. How do you see these passages pointing toward Jesus’ birth and his life on earth? How do they point toward the Second Coming and Christ’s reign over all things?

5. Read **Isaiah 9:2-7**. How do the descriptions of the Messiah in this passage speak to our deep human longings and needs?

6. What is one phrase or expression from **Psalm 46** or the **Isaiah** readings that best expresses your response to God this week? How do you desire to strengthen your hope in him?

**FOR TO US A CHILD IS
BORN, TO US A SON IS
GIVEN. . . . HE WILL
REIGN ON DAVID’S
THRONE AND OVER
HIS KINGDOM.**

Isaiah 9:6-7