



HOPE PERSONAL STUDY GUIDE

NOVEMBER 29, 2020

TAKEAWAY:

God promised the people of Israel that He would send a rescuer. Finally, Jesus of Nazareth arrived on the scene to bring hope not only to the descendants of Abraham, but to all people. He would save people from their sins so that they could once more dwell with God.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT:

Christians today remember the arrival of hope in flesh during the Advent season. His arrival is a time of rejoicing and bitterness. We rejoice because He will save us from our sins, but the fact that our sin is so heinous causes us to lament.

GOSPEL CONNECTION:

We have hope because of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Have you ever been in a situation where you had to miss one or more meals?
- 2 How did this affect you? How have we been created to seek nourishment when it is missing?

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

> Read Matthew 1:18-20.

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit."

- What was the origin of the plight of God's people? What made the coming of a rescuer necessary? Why is it important to remember this today?
- How did the prophets point to a future hope in Jesus?
- How do these accounts encourage us of the hope in Jesus we have today?

> Read Matthew 1:21.

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.

- According to this verse, what was Jesus' mission on earth, and what did He do to secure our hope?
- How are we given hope through the finished work of Jesus? How do we receive this hope?

> Read Matthew 1:22-25.

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us." ²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

- How should our future hope of eternity with God affect our lives today?
- How does this give you hope right now?

APPLICATION

- 1 What is your hope for salvation and heaven? Do you have confident hope in your position before God?
- 2 What makes the hope we have in Christ different from the hope the world offers?
- 3 What are some practical ways you can reflect on the hope we have in Christ?

THIS WEEK

- Memorize Matthew 1:21
- Read Matthew 1:1-6 on Monday
- Read Matthew 1:7-11 on Tuesday
- Read Matthew 1:12-17 on Wednesday
- Read Matthew 1:18-19 on Thursday
- Read Matthew 1:20-23 on Friday
- Read Matthew 1:24-25 on Saturday