

Hope Has Come



MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK 1 – THE HOPE OF CHRISTMAS

²⁶In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷For no word from God will ever fail."

³⁸"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

– Luke 1:26-38 (NIV)

THE HOPE OF CHRISTMAS

- Jesus _____ hope _____
- God _____ us at the _____ of our greatest _____
 - Jesus means "the LORD (_____) saves"
 - Jesus' _____ reveals why Jesus _____
- Jesus _____ God's _____

BIG IDEA

Because of Jesus _____ has a _____

ADDITIONAL NOTES

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. How did Jesus make hope personal?
2. What do you think is humanity's greatest need? Why?
3. What does the name *Jesus* mean?
4. What does Matthew 1:20-21 reveal about the correlation between Jesus' name and why he came?
5. Why is it important that God met us at the point of our greatest need?
6. What does the birth of Jesus reveal about the trustworthiness of God to keep his promises?
7. Why is it significant that hope has a name?
8. How can you help others embrace hope this Christmas?
9. How can the hope of Christmas provide hope for difficult times we may face?
10. What can Christmas teach us about the need for hope to be personal?