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## Experience the Gifts of Christmas #1: "Hope"

November 29 & 30, 2025

Isaiah 9:1-2, 6-7 | Luke 2:8-14

### Opener:

Think about a time when you were waiting for something important—test results, a phone call, an answer to prayer. What was the difference between "hoping for the best" and actually having confidence it would work out?

### Go Deeper: *(Exploring the Bible)*

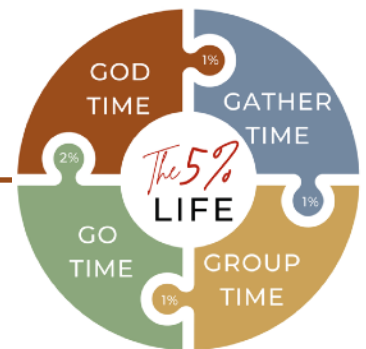
1. Read Isaiah 9:1-7. What specific promises does God make about the coming child? What do the four throne names (v. 6) tell us about the kind of hope this child brings?
  2. The people who received Isaiah's prophecy waited over 700 years to see it fulfilled. What does this timeline teach us about God's faithfulness and how God works?
  3. Read Luke 2:8-14. Why is it significant that the angels announced Jesus' birth to shepherds rather than to religious leaders or royalty?
  4. The angel says "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you" (Luke 2:11). How does the word "today" and the phrase "to you" shape our understanding of hope?
  5. Read Luke 2:15-20. The shepherds returned to their same fields and same responsibilities. What changed? What does this teach us about how hope works in ordinary life?
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**Live It:** *(Applying to Daily Life)*

1. Where in your life right now are you operating in "wishful thinking" (uncertain, fragile hope) rather than biblical hope (anchored in God's promises)? What's the difference?
2. Which of the four throne names—Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace—speaks most to what you need right now? Why?
3. The sermon said "Hope comes to those who can't create it." In what area of your life do you most need to stop trying to manufacture hope and simply receive it as a gift?
4. Describe a time when your circumstances didn't change but you changed in how you experienced them. What made the difference?
5. As you return to your "same fields" this week, what's one specific way you can live like someone who has encountered real hope? What will be different about Monday because of what you heard Sunday?



**GOD TIME:**



**Daily Bible Readings (November 30-December 6)**

Sun:	Isaiah 9:1-7	The Promise of Light
Mon:	Psalms 33:16-22	Our Hope & Shield
Tues:	Romans 15:4-13	Overflow with Hope
Wed:	Hebrews 6:13-20	An Anchor for the Soul
Thurs:	1 Peter 1:3-9	Living Hope
Fri:	Lamentations 3:19-26	Great Is Your Faithfulness
Sat:	Luke 2:8-20	Hope Announced