

THE COMMONS LEADER GUIDE

December 9th
Advent - Hope
“When I think about Tomorrow”

MAIN SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 1:3-16

REFERENCE PASSAGE:

Romans 15:12-13

MAIN POINTS

- **Hope begins with new birth, not new circumstances.**

Peter says we’ve been given a “new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ” (v. 3). Biblical hope doesn’t come from improved situations—it comes from belonging to Jesus.

- **Hope is anchored in the future God has promised.**

Verses 4–5 describe an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. This hope is not fragile. It isn’t subject to life’s volatility or our emotional ups and downs.

- **Hope can coexist with hardship.**

Peter acknowledges that believers may suffer “for a little while” (v. 6), but hope reframes suffering. It doesn’t deny the pain—it declares the outcome.

- **Hope purifies how we live now.**

Hope is not passive; it shapes the way we think, resist temptation, and pursue holiness.

- **Advent is a season of hope-filled waiting.**

Just as God’s people waited for the Messiah’s birth, we now wait with hope for His return. Advent positions us between two arrivals—remembering what God has done and anticipating what He will do.

RESOURCES

“What is Hope” - Desiring God

“Hope in Suffering” - Crossway

UPCOMING COMMONS EVENTS

Prayer and Worship Night - 12/16 @ 7pm

FROM THE PASSAGE (1 Peter 1:3–16)

1. Peter calls our hope a “living hope.”
What do you think that means? How is biblical hope different from optimism or positive thinking?
2. Verses 4–5 talk about an inheritance that can’t be taken away. How does having a secure future shape the way we handle present challenges?
3. In verse 6, Peter acknowledges “grief in all kinds of trials.” How can hope and hardship exist at the same time without canceling each other out?
4. Verse 13 tells us to “set your hope fully” on what Jesus will reveal when He returns. What competes for your hope? What do you tend to “set your hope” on instead?
5. Peter connects hope to holiness (vv. 14–16).
Why does true hope change the way we live?

APPLICATION

6. Where do you personally feel the need for hope right now—relationships, purpose, finances, mental health, waiting, disappointment?
7. When life feels uncertain or discouraging, what do you naturally place your hope in (success, relationships, control, comfort, distractions)? How does that hold up?
8. Have you ever experienced God strengthening your hope during a season when things weren’t improving? What helped you stay anchored?
9. What would it look like for you to “set your hope fully” on Jesus during Advent instead of on temporary things like holiday expectations, family dynamics, or personal goals?
10. If someone came to you feeling hopeless, what truth from this passage would you want to share with them?

