

# A THRILL OF HOPE

A FOUR-WEEK DEVOTIONAL



SILVERDALE WOMEN  
ILLUMINATE 2022



Let us hold tightly without  
wavering to the *hope*  
we affirm, for God can be  
trusted to keep His promise.

HEBREWS 10:23

# INTRODUCTION:

The lyrics of the popular Christmas carol “O Holy Night” beautifully tell the story of Jesus’ birth. Perhaps the most powerful lines in this song are the following: “Long lay the world in sin and error pining; till He appeared, and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!”

What do you think of when you hear the phrase “a thrill of hope”? To be thrilled is to suddenly feel great excitement and pleasure. We often use the word hope to mean something that we wish to happen. By using the word “hope” in this way we actually imply that we doubt what we desire will happen. To understand why hope can thrill us, we have to understand the difference between hope as we use it versus true Biblical hope. Biblical hope is not just a wish or desire. The hope described in Scripture is a confident expectation for the future.

**When we place our hope in God, we confidently expect what He says in His Word will happen.**

How do we maintain this thrill of hope when the world feels hostile, dark, or lonely? The brokenness in the world that we live in can distract us from the hope that we have in our Savior. In The Knowledge of the Holy, A.W. Tozer says, “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us”. If we are uncertain about who God is we cannot live with confident expectations.

**It is knowing God as He describes Himself in His Word that brings the thrill of hope (the excitement of confident expectation) to our life.**

Because of our limited minds, we cannot fully grasp who our infinite God is. But, we can look to His word to see what is true about Him. These truths that God reveals about Himself are commonly referred to as the attributes of God. God’s attributes are not just individual qualities or character traits; they are who He is. And while His attributes may be listed separately, they cannot ever be completely separated because God’s attributes present the total picture of who He is. Over the next four weeks, we are going to look deeper into five attributes of God that will help us begin to understand who He is and why knowing Him produces the thrill of hope. We will explore passages in both the Old and New Testaments to see that God has always been and always will be exactly as He describes Himself: our source of Hope!





# WK 01.

## GOD IS GOOD

### DAY 01.

Read Genesis 1.

How many times do you read “good”? \_\_\_\_\_

A good creation comes from a good Creator!  
List specific things in creation that show us the goodness of God.

Read 1 Timothy 4:4-5 and reflect on how you enjoy creation as a means of enjoying God’s goodness.

**FURTHER READING:**  
Psalm 27:13, Nahum 1:7, Ephesians 2:10

We often use the word “good” to describe something easy and pleasant that makes us happy. We use “good” subjectively, based on our personal perspective. However, there is nothing subjective about God’s goodness. In The Attributes of God, Arthur W. Pink says that God is goodness itself. He doesn’t just do good things. Rather, goodness is the very essence of God. He cannot be anything but good. His goodness flows through each of His other attributes.

**SONGS:** *Goodness of God. I Believe.*



## DAY 02.

How does 1 Chronicles 16:34 describe God?

In this chapter, verses 8-36 are a song of thanksgiving sung to the Lord. What in this passage points to His goodness?

## DAY 03.

The Psalms frequently state that God is good.

Look up Psalm 25:8, 143:10, and 145:5-9. Make a list of what these verses say about God's goodness and circle the one that is most meaningful to you in your current season.

## DAY 04.

Read Titus 3:4-5. God's goodness is what caused Him to send Jesus to be our Savior. Spend some time listening to this week's songs on our Spotify playlist and worship God for His goodness to you through salvation.

## DAY 05.

Hebrews 13:20-21 gives hope that it is not up to us to produce good works. Write below exactly what verse 21 says God equips believers with and take a moment to rejoice in this good news.

## LISTEN & RESPOND.

James 1:17 says "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." It is easy to see His goodness when our circumstances feel good, but we can also trust that He is good even in difficult times because He never changes. Because He is good, He gave us the greatest gift of all through His Son Jesus. Even His judgment is good when it leads to repentance (Romans 2:4). When we know that God is good it changes our mindset to believe that everything He allows is for our good and His glory. His goodness is reason for us to have hope. What are some ways you have seen the goodness of God?

Give thanks to the LORD,  
for He is *good*  
His faithful love  
endures forever.

I CHRONICLES 16:34





# WK 02.

## GOD IS FAITHFUL

Faithfulness is the attribute of God that describes His complete dependability. God cannot be anything other than faithful. His faithfulness is not defined by our own desires for how things should happen in our lives. God is faithful to Himself; everything He does must agree with His divine character. We see evidence of God's faithfulness throughout the entire Bible. Let's look at God's faithfulness in a few passages.

**SONGS:** *Same God, Firm Foundation. Promises.*

### DAY 01.

Read Genesis 18:9-15 and Genesis 21:1-7. What did God tell Abraham and Sarah that He would do?

What did God do? How does this show the faithfulness of God?

### DAY 02.

Read Deuteronomy 7:9. What does this verse say the Lord is faithful to do? For how long?

Look up the definition of the word covenant. How does this definition help you to better understand God's covenant with His people?

### DAY 03.

Read Psalm 91. What does verse 4 say about God's faithfulness?

Read this verse in the CSB, NIV, or NLT translations if you are not sure what the last part of the verse means.

What does this aspect of God's faithfulness mean for you?

## DAY 04.

God's faithfulness does not mean we will not endure testing, trials, and temptations.

Read 1 Corinthians 10:13. What does God promise in this verse?

How does this verse comfort you when you consider the hard things you may be experiencing?

## DAY 05.

What does 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 say about God's faithfulness?

Look up the definitions of the words sanctify and blameless. What does this promise of God's faithfulness mean for you?

### LISTEN & RESPOND.

Throughout God's word, His faithfulness is often described in conjunction with His love, protection, steadfastness, strength, and mercy. As 2 Timothy 2:13 reminds us, even when we are faithless, "He remains faithful—for He cannot deny himself." In a world filled with sin and heartache, it can be difficult to be filled with hope. But God's faithfulness produces hope. We can rely on God to be faithful to who He is and to keep His promises. List some of the ways that you have seen God's faithfulness in your life.



# SILVERDALE WOMEN



I pray that the eyes of your heart  
may be enlightened in order  
that you may know the *hope*  
to which He has called you.

EPHESIANS 1:8



# ENERGY BITES

[SERVINGS: 24 BITES]

3/4 cup peanut butter  
1 3/4 cup old fashioned oats  
1/3 cup honey  
1/3 cup "add-ins"  
(mini chocolate chips, craisins, raisins, etc)

- Add the ingredients to a mixing bowl and combine.
- Line a baking sheet or plate with parchment paper.
- Roll dough into 24 balls.
- Refrigerate for one hour before adding energy bites to a storage bag.
- Store in the refrigerator for up to 2 weeks or in the freezer for up to 3 months.

*share with a friend!*

# WK 03.

## GOD IS SOVEREIGN

While the term “sovereignty” is rarely found in more modern translations of scripture, God’s sovereignty is an important concept in understanding who God is. Most dictionaries will define a sovereign as a ruler with unlimited power and sovereignty as having supreme power or authority. Because of who God is, He has the absolute right to rule over all things with complete power and authority. He weaves together people and circumstances in such a way that proves He is in control of everything that happens, all the while remaining good and faithful to His children. Only God can make those claims!

### DAY 01.

In week 1, we looked at God’s goodness in Genesis 1. Read through Genesis 1-2 again, noting how these chapters show the sovereignty of God.

Then read Genesis 7:1-10 for another example of God’s absolute control over creation. For further reading, see Joshua 10:12-14 and Luke 23:44-45.

### DAY 02.

As with some of the other attributes we have studied, the Psalms speak often to God’s sovereignty.

Look up Psalm 115:1-3, and Psalm 135:5-7. In our humanness, we often view God as whom we want Him to be rather than who He actually is. From these verses, who does God please?

Based on what we’ve already studied about His goodness and faithfulness, write why this is better than Him simply doing what pleases us.

**SONGS:** *Sovereign Over Us. Reign Above it All.*



## DAY 03.

In the Old Testament, the prophet Isaiah recorded many thoughts on God's sovereignty. In Isaiah 14:24 and Isaiah 46:10, what does God say about His plans?

Read Isaiah 45:7-12 and list the things you see about God's character in this passage.

## DAY 04.

Read Matthew 6:5-13. Verse 10 says "Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." In this verse from The Lord's Prayer, how does Jesus teach us to pray in relation to God's sovereignty?

## DAY 05.

God's sovereignty is evident in multiple ways in Acts 17:24-28. List the ways this passage shows the sovereignty of God.

God is sovereign and rules as He pleases, but what assurance do you see in verses 27 and 28?

## LISTEN & RESPOND.

God's design for creation was perfect, but sin broke fellowship with God. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-19. We live in a world where bad things happen because of sin, but God sent His son to pay the penalty for our sins. God is good and faithful even when we have broken fellowship with Him. We can trust that He is in control and does all things for our good and His glory. How does God's sovereignty give you a reason to hope?





# WK 04.

## GOD IS MERCIFUL & GRACIOUS

The attributes of mercy and grace are often used together in scripture. While these are considered separate attributes of God, it is really impossible to consider one without the other. God's mercy refers to the pity and forgiveness He offers to those who deserve His wrath as well as the compassion and tenderness He shows to those who are distressed and suffering. God's grace refers to the favor, kindness, and generosity He shows toward those that do not deserve it. He gives grace freely - it cannot be bought or earned. Both mercy and grace flow from the eternal, infinite, holy love of God.

### DAY 01.

Read Exodus 34:6-9. List all of the ways that God is described in these verses.

In verse 7, how does God treat people differently when they repent of their sins versus when they stubbornly reject His forgiveness?

In verse 8, what was Moses' reaction?

### DAY 02.

Read Lamentations 3:20-26. What do verses 22-23 say about how long God's love and mercy will last?

What other attribute of God is mentioned in verses 22-23?

In verses 21 and 24, what happens when the author of Lamentations considers God's love and mercy?

**SONGS:** *Thank you, Jesus, for the Blood. What He's Done.*



### **DAY 03.**

Read Ephesians 2:1-10. Verses 1-3 describe our nature without Christ. What do verses 4-8 say happens as a result of God's mercy, grace, and love when surrendering our lives to Christ?

Verses 9 and 10 make it clear that none of this is a result of our own works, but rather a gift from God.

### **DAY 04.**

Read Hebrews 4:14-16. How does verse 16 say we can draw near to God's grace?

When we are in need, what does God's grace provide?

Is this how you approach God? Spend time thanking Jesus today for His substitutionary sacrifice on our behalf that allows sinful people like us to draw near confidently.

### **DAY 05.**

Read 1 Peter 1:3-12. In verse 3, what is the result of God's mercy?

List some of the future benefits of salvation produced by God's mercy from verses 4-12.

What does verse 10 tell us was prophesied by the Old Testament prophets?

# LISTEN & RESPOND:

God's mercy and grace are most prominently displayed through Jesus Christ. Romans 3:23 tells us all of us have sinned against God. Because of sin, we all deserve God's punishment. But in His mercy, God poured out His wrath on His son Jesus Christ, who died on the cross for our sins.

Jesus' death and resurrection conquered sin and death. If we turn to Christ and repent of our sins, God mercifully withholds the punishment for the sin that we deserve. God also graciously gives us blessings that we do not deserve, including eternal life in Heaven and the promise of joy, peace, and unity with Christ throughout our life. God does not simply save us from His wrath and leave us hanging. He continues to care for us in our failures and in our suffering after salvation. The gift of God's son - Jesus Christ - is our hope of glory (Colossians 1:27).

**WE CAN ONLY LIVE WITH A *thrill of hope*  
WHEN WE KNOW GOD THROUGH THE  
SALVATION OF HIS SON, JESUS.**

Have you received the gift of God's salvation? What other evidence of God's mercy and grace do you see in your life?

Spend some time thanking Him for the grace & mercy He has given you through salvation.

Email [silverdalewomen@silverdalebc.com](mailto:silverdalewomen@silverdalebc.com) to know more or talk with someone.





# RESOURCES:

Check out some of our favorite resources below.

## TO READ

Adore - Experiencing God in the Middle Minutes by Sara Hagerty

The Attributes of God - Book by A.W. Tozer

Jesus Through the Eyes of Women - Book by Rebecca McLaughlin

None Like Him, In His Image - Books by Jen Wilkin

## TO LISTEN

A Thrill of Hope Spotify Playlist - <https://sptfy.com/LY9i>

Let's Talk Podcast - The Gospel Coalition

Glorious in the Mundane Podcast - Christy Nockels

She Reads Truth Podcast

## TO STUDY

The Bible Recap - Reading Plan & Podcast

Living a Life of Genuine Faith: James - [jenwilkin.net/downloads](http://jenwilkin.net/downloads)

ReachingHer.com - Printable Bible Studies

Remember Your Joy - Bible Study by Courtney Doctor & Melissa Kruger

Flourish - One Year Mentorship Bible Study by Passion City Church

The Power of Jesus' Names - Study by Tony Evans on RightNow Media  
See the "websites" tab at [silverdalebc.com/smallgroups](http://silverdalebc.com/smallgroups) for a link to join for free.

"I will never forget Your commandments, for by them You give me life."  
Psalm 119:93, NLT



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