

*May the God who gives **hope** fill you with great joy. May you have perfect peace as you trust in him. May the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with **hope**. (Romans 15:13)*

*That's the **hope** we had when we were saved. But **hope** that can be seen is no **hope** at all. Who **hopes** for what they already have? We **hope** for what we don't have yet. So we are patient as we wait for it. (Romans 8:24-25)*

The first week of Advent is HOPE.

Hope is looking forward and desiring something that hasn't happened or arrived yet. The Bible teaches us that for hundreds of years faithful men and women were hoping and looking forward to the time when God would send the Messiah—The Chosen One—to come and save them. Finally, 2,000 years ago, God's own Son was born in Bethlehem. He had arrived! Their hope was now complete. This is like waiting and hoping for weeks and months to open presents on Christmas. Then Christmas finally arrives! You get to open the gifts. God teaches us that once we trust Jesus Christ as our Savior, we have a new hope. Because some day, Jesus is going to return and we will be with him forever. No more tears, death or pain.

**Family Prayer:**

*Father God in heaven, we thank you for the hope that we have in Jesus Christ. That he was born in a manger. That he grew and lived a perfect life on earth. A life without sin. He was punished and died on the cross for our sins. Thank you for giving us a hope that only can come from believing and trusting in him as our Savior and Lord. Thank you so much for Christmas. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.*