

WELLSPRING

W O R S H I P C E N T E R

Advent Part 1 Hope Reflection Questions 12/03/2023

1. What do you think of this definition of **hope**: “a confident, joyful expectation of a better future based on the character and faithfulness of the one in whom hope is placed”? How is this definition different than general “positive thinking”?
2. Romans 5:5 tells us that “this hope” does not disappoint. We all know other kinds of hope that have disappointed us, but what is different about “this hope”?
3. The Israelite community in Babylon (who were held captive there because of their disobedience) received a letter from the prophet Jeremiah in which God tells them that His plans for them are to give them hope and a future. Has it been your experience that even in times of God’s rebuke or correction, there is still hope for us?
4. Can you relate to being “problem-focused”? Do you tend to think that if you didn’t have that one issue, then you could really enjoy life?
5. Why do you think people would rather live a pessimistic life never being disappointed, instead of a hope-filled life, that has occasional disappointment?
6. Sometimes we can place our hope in the ability to understand why bad things happen. Why is fully understanding why things happen so difficult? What did you think of the two-car or pond-ripple analogy?
7. Can you recall a time when your expectations were not met? How did that make you feel? How can unmet expectations create hopelessness?
8. How does having an eternal perspective adjust how we face challenging times?
9. What did you think of the nautical analogy from Hebrews 6:19-20 where Jesus is the “forerunner” who carries the anchor ahead of us behind the veil into God’s presence?
10. Share a time when you made Jesus the anchor of your soul during a difficult season of life. What do you experience during that time?