

Micah 5:1-6 – Advent Hope – Study Notes & Questions

Icebreaker – share a favorite Christmas memory or family tradition.

Key Ideas for discussion

- Biblical hope desires something good for the future, is confident that it will happen, and lasts until it is fulfilled. (Hebrews 6:11)
- Hope that does not last beyond your lifetime is no hope at all! We need a hope that goes beyond the grave.
- We need a hope that will weather our failures and our successes, our bad times and our good.

Takeaway Truth: True Hope is in an eternal person – Jesus and all that He promises.

Questions for discussion/application

1. Proverbs 13:12 – Hope deferred makes the heart sick. Have you experienced “hope deferred”? In what way? How did it make you feel?
2. It is easy to rest our hopes on things that are near term and of this world, rather than on Christ. Share from your own life some of these false objects of hope. How can you grow in the ability to shift your gaze from the temporal to the eternal?
3. Tim Keller asserts that “You and I are unavoidably and irreducibly hope based creatures. We are controlled how we live now by what we think will happen later. Christian hope has to do with the ultimate future, not the immediate. How are your actions today being controlled by what you think will happen in the future?”
4. How is faith related to hope? (Hebrews 11:1).
5. What promises of God are you looking forward to being ultimately fulfilled?
6. We live in the tension of the already and not yet. This means that in Christ we already possess every spiritual blessing but practically speaking, we don’t fully experience the fullness of these blessings yet. Share some of the blessings of Christ that you are truly experiencing. How complete are these blessings?
7. In Micah 5:2, Jesus is described as coming from Bethlehem, “too little to be among the clans of Judah”. What is the historical significance of Bethlehem (who else came from there)? What do we learn about God that he would choose such an insignificant town to birth the Savior of the world? (cross-reference 1 Corinthians 1:26-31)

WORSHIP RESOURCE

November 29, 2020 | First Sunday of Advent

WORSHIP SONGS

GREAT THINGS

Words by Phil Wickham and Jonas Myrin, 2018

Come, let us worship our King. Come, let us bow at His feet. He has done great things. See what our Savior has done. See how His love overcomes. He has done great things. He has done great things.

O Hero of Heaven, You conquered the grave. You free every captive and break every chain. O God, You have done great things. We dance in Your freedom, awake and alive. O Jesus, our Savior, Your name lifted high. O God, You have done great things.

You've been faithful through every storm. You'll be faithful forevermore. You have done great things. And I know You will do it again for Your promise is Yes and Amen. You will do great things. God, You do great things.

Hallelujah, God above it all! Hallelujah, God unshakable!
Hallelujah, You have done great things.

GRAVES INTO GARDENS

Words and Music by Brandon Lake, Christ Brown, Steven Furtick and Tiffany Hammer, 2019

I searched the world, but it couldn't fill me.
Man's empty praise and treasures that fade are never enough.
Then You came along and put me back together.
And every desire is now satisfied here in your love.

*Oh there's nothing better than You. There's nothing better than You.
Lord, there's nothing, nothing is better than You.*

I'm not afraid to show You my weakness.
May failures and flaws, Lord You've seen them all,
and You still call me friend.
'Cause the God of the mountain is the God of the valley.
There's not a place Your mercy and grace won't find me again.

You turn to mourning to dancing. You give beauty for ashes.
You turn shame into glory. You're the only one who can.
You turn graves into gardens. You turn bones into armies.
You turn seas into highways. You're the only one who can.

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

Latin Antiphons, 12th Century | Plainsong, 13th Century

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to Thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny; from depths of hell thy people save, and give them victory o'er the grave.

O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by Thy drawing nigh; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, Thou Key of David come and open wide our heavenly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.

COME AS YOU ARE

Words and Music by David Crowder, Matt Maher, Ben Glover, 2014

Come out of sadness from wherever you've been.
Come broken-hearted, let rescue begin.
Come find your mercy, O sinner come kneel.
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal.

*So lay down your burdens, lay down your shame.
All who are broken lift up your face.
O wanderer come home, you're not too far.
So lay down your hurt, lay down your heart, come as you are.*

There's hope for the hopeless and all those who've strayed.
Come sit at the table, come taste the grace.
There's rest for the weary, rest that endures.
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't cure.

Come as you are; fall in his arms, come as you are.

DAILY READINGS | BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

SUNDAY | Ps. 24; Isaiah 1:1-9; 2 Peter 3:1-10; Matt. 25:1-13
MONDAY | Ps. 40; Isaiah 1:10-20; 1 Thess. 1:1-10; Luke 20:1-8
TUESDAY | Ps. 85; Isaiah 1:21-31; 1 Thess. 2:1-12; Luke 20:9-18
WEDNESDAY | Ps. 50; Isaiah 2:1-4; 1 Thess. 2:13-20; Luke 20:19-26
THURSDAY | Ps. 126; Isaiah 2:5-22; 1 Thess. 3:1-13; Luke 20:27-40
FRIDAY | Ps. 102; Isaiah 3:1-4:1; 1 Thess. 4:1-12; Luke 20:41-21:4
SATURDAY | Ps. 80; Isaiah 4:2-6; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Luke 21:5-19

PRAYER OF RENEWAL

Lord Jesus, no one knows the day or the hour of your return. During this Advent season, may we be alert and awake, watchful for the signs of your second coming. As we understand the coming of summer, so, too, may we understand when the day of the Lord is drawing near. Until that time, set our hearts on you and your kingdom and help us to live in the hope that all will be made new. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.



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