

**Anticipating Advent  
Anticipating Hope**  
Sermon Notes for Nov. 29, 2020

Hope Overcomes Discouragement

\*R \_\_\_\_\_ for Discouragement:

\*S \_\_\_\_\_ of Hope:

\*L \_\_\_\_\_ we can Learn:

**Anticipating Advent  
Discussion/Study Guide for Anticipating Hope**

We hope this guide will help you go deeper into God's Word and spur you on in obedience to what God is teaching us today. Please feel free to use all or part of it for your group discussion or personal study.

- When you think of the season of advent, the weeks leading up to Christmas, what are some words you would use to describe this season? Do these words bring you hope or discouragement?
- What are the things in your life right now that cause you discouragement?
- Read Luke 1:5-25. What do you see in Zechariah and Elizabeth's life that would have caused them to be discouraged?
- How does the angel Gabriel's visitation and announcement to Zechariah bring hope?
- What is Zechariah's initial response? What is Elizabeth's response?
- Read Luke 1:57-79. How did the neighbors respond to the birth of John? How did Zechariah respond?
- Summarize in your own words what Zechariah is now able to say once his mouth is opened and his tongue is loosed.
- What lessons can you learn from Zechariah and Elizabeth's experience? How does God meet them in the midst of their discouragement?
- How does their discouragement actually turn out to be for the glory of God?
- How is God meeting you in the midst of your discouragement right now?
- Have you ever had discouraging experiences in the past turn out for good in God's eyes? When, what, and how did this take place?
- Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. How do these words give you hope?

Take some time to thank God for the hope He gives us to overcome our discouragements. Ask God for help and hope in the midst of the discouragements you may be facing right now. Think of someone you know who might be going through a discouraging time and pray for them. Decide how you might encourage them with hope.