

Rejoice

Simeon's Song

As if wielding some mystic power, the Christmas season calls out our deepest hopes and yearnings. We long for something – or someone – to set things right in our world. This week, we will look at the character of Simeon to see how we can make room to have a fresh encounter with Jesus this Advent.

Day 1 Read Luke 2:22-39

What can we learn from Simeon about making room to encounter Jesus? How can you nurture a sense of eager expectation about what God will do in your life and the world around you?

Day 2 Read Isaiah 40

What does this passage have to teach us about what we should be anticipating? How can you foster within you a deep sense of need for God's comfort and restoration in your life?

Day 3 Read Psalm 51

What does this psalm teach us about the importance of being aware of our need for God? How does being aware of this need prepare us to experience the miracle of Christmas?

Day 4 Read Isaiah 26

This chapter doesn't mention the word "hope," but the imagery of a sunrise is a common metaphor for hope. What does this chapter teach us about our hope? Verses 7-9 are interesting. What is the relationship between hope and desire? How aware are you of your need for God? How would a more acute awareness of that need influence your hope?

Day 5 Read Romans 5:1-11

According to this passage, what is the basis of our hope? What does the author mean when they say that our hope, “does not put us to shame?” How does this passage encourage you? How does it challenge you?

Day 6 Read Hebrews 6:9-20

What is the relationship between diligence and hope? Is hope passive or active? Is it something we wait for or something we live out of? Explain the difference. How does the imagery of our hope as an anchor for the soul encourage you?

Day 7 Read 1 Peter 1

According to this passage, what is the source of our hope? What is the goal of our hope? What does it mean to have, “a new birth into a living hope?” What sort of action does this passage call us to in light of our hope? What would this call to action look like in your own life?