



Isaiah: Hope

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Message Reflection Guide

"Biblical hope is not a mere desire for something good to happen. It is a confident expectation and desire for something good in the future. Biblical hope has moral certainty in it. When the word says, "Hope in God!" it does not mean, "Cross your fingers." It means, to use the words of William Carey, "Expect great things from God." John Piper – Desiring God

CONVERSATION STARTER

Have you ever hoped for something? What are you hoping for during this Christmas season?

GETTING INTO THE SCRIPTURES – Read Isaiah 52:13-53:12

On Sunday, we talked about the Israelites being in exile and looking forward to the coming of their Savior. This world is not operating in the way God had designed, which can sometimes lead us to feel like we're in a sort of exile. How are some ways you may feel like you're living in exile?

Read Isaiah 7:14 – What is the significance of the virgin birth?

As you read Isaiah 52:13-53:12, point out specific prophecies that came true roughly 700 years later. Are there other prophecies in this passage that have yet to come to pass?

Read Isaiah 60:2-3 – Describe your anticipation for the hope we have in Jesus's second coming.

CHALLENGE

Are you looking for hope? The world offers all sorts of false hopes that eventually lead to even more darkness. We have hope knowing that Jesus is not only coming again, but when he died on the cross, he died so that you may LIVE here and now! I want to encourage us all to intentionally reflect on the hope of Jesus this week as we enter the Christmas season. At times, we may feel like we are still in exile, let's join with the monks and the many throughout the ages who have sung the song of advent hope: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel. And ransom captive Israel."