

York St Small Groups Sermon Based Studies

SUNDAY 28th November 2021

The Birth of Hope, Hope Foretold

Isaiah 9:6-7



These studies are designed to be explored after hearing the Sunday sermon and to be accompanied by a time of prayer/sharing.



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CHURCH OF CHRIST

GETTING STARTED

Q1. What do you hold on to when you think of *hope*? What is your hope? What do you put your hope in?

Q2. Hope is one of those words that the more we think about it, the more its true meaning becomes revealed to us. Hope is in something other than us, hope is not just one person but involves two things or two people, for example, “I hope that holds” means there are two things working together. Hope means we have to have faith, there is trust, and there is risk. What does it mean then to put our HOPE in Jesus? What are we putting our faith in? What is it that we trust and what is the risk?

INTO THE WORD

Read Isaiah 9:6

Q3. The Bible tells us of the 'hope foretold', how the prophets in the Old Testament were given messages from God telling his people of what would come. A time and a person that they could place their 'hope' in.

In the prophet Isaiah's reflections, we see a list of character traits that the Messiah would have. Do you think we can still put our hope in these today? What stands out as an important one for God's Church at the moment?

Read Isaiah 9:7

Q4. Isaiah reflects not only on the birth of Jesus, but also his second coming. A time when peace reigns, where justice and righteousness will be forever. What does the hope of this future mean for us today? How can we live in a way that reflects where our hope lays?

GOING DEEPER

Read Matthew 28:16-20

Q6. In the Old Testament the prophets foretold of the hope that was to come. Jesus also asks us to foretell of a hope that is found in Him. What stops us from either accepting the hope of Jesus, or sharing this hope with others?

Q7. How can you live today in a way that helps share the hope for tomorrow with those you love?

Pray

Heavenly Father, we thank you that in you we find hope, that in Christ we see hope, and in your word, we see how hope is communicated to others. Help us to embrace hope, help us to share hope, and ensure that our thoughts remain central around the hope of the world that is Jesus Christ. In His name we pray, amen.