

## Christmas Chaos

“ How to Find Hope When Things Look Hopeless ”

1. Keep an Eternal Perspective w. 46-50

2. Remember God is Capable w. 51-55



# Grow Group Discussion Questions

A grow group is 8-16 people who get together weekly to study God's word and the previous Sunday's message. There is a time of discussion, support, encouragement, and learning how the message applies to daily life. **PCC uses the ESV (English Standard Version).**

## HOW DO I JOIN A GROUP?

To learn more or join a group, visit [pacificcoastchurch.org/gg/](http://pacificcoastchurch.org/gg/) or sign up at the patio Info Kiosk.

### Point #1

- Read Luke 1:46-50. How would Joseph and Mary have viewed their situation as hopeless? (i.e., virgin birth)
- In what way did Mary find hope in her challenges? (i.e., "generation to generation") How does this relate to Point #1?
- Why should Christmas be a time of hope for all Christians? How does Point #1 help you? Be specific.

### Point #2

- Read Luke 1:51-55. What was Mary recalling when she talked about strong arms and bringing down the mighty?
- How was she applying this to her challenges? Why? What does this imply about Point #2 and finding hope today?
- In what way can Christians get distracted from this truth today? How does Point #2 help you find hope this week?

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## Daily Devotions

These are provided for mid-week personal spiritual growth. Prayerfully writing out your answers will help you experience real life transformation as you dig deeper into the spiritual truths of God's word and today's message.

A downloadable PDF of this document is also available each week at [pacificcoastchurch.org/sermons](http://pacificcoastchurch.org/sermons).

### **MONDAY / Read Luke 1:39-50, Matthew 1:18-25 / ADVENT: Jeremiah 14:22**

- Explain how Mary and Joseph would have felt their situation was hopeless. (i.e., virgin birth) Be specific.
- In what way did Mary have a broader perspective on this challenging situation? (Hint: "generation to generation")
- How do you think this helped her find hope in spite of her challenges? How does this help you this Christmas?

### **TUESDAY / Read Luke 1:46-50, Psalm 62:5-7, 71:4-6, 14, 130:5-8 / ADVENT: Psalm 42:5**

- In what way did Mary apply an Old Testament perspective when it comes to hope? Be specific.
- Why will "hope" entail a looking forward perspective? How is biblical hope different than wishful thinking?
- In your own words, what does it mean to have hope? How can you apply this truth to a current challenge?

### **WEDNESDAY / Read Luke 1:50, John 3:16-17, 1 Tim. 1:1, 4:10, Titus 2:13, 3:7, 1 Cor. 15:19 / ADVENT: 1 Tim. 6:17**

- In what way has Christmas changed what it means to have a biblical focus for hope? Be specific.
- Why is this important to clearly understand? How does the cross and eternal life relate to New Testament hope?
- How does this encourage you given the local and global challenges we are facing today?

### **THURSDAY // Read Luke 1:51-55, Psalm 19:1, Ephesians 3:20 / ADVENT: Psalm 146:5-7**

- What was Mary highlighting when she remembered how God had worked in Israel's past?
- How did this bring Mary hope in her challenging situation? What can happen without this perspective?
- In what way does this relate to God working during difficult times today? How does this encourage you?

### **FRIDAY // Read Luke 1:51-55, 1 Kings 18:16-39 / ADVENT: Psalm 119:116-117**

- Describe what was at stake when King Ahab accused Elijah of being a troublemaker? What was the result?
- In what way did Elijah have a Christmas perspective when dealing with the Prophets of Baal? (i.e., hope)
- How can you be more confident in God's ability to work today? How can you step into this truth today?

### **SATURDAY // Read Luke 1:46-55, Hebrews 11:1-13 / ADVENT: Hebrews 10:23**

- What does Mary have in common with the Jewish patriarchs of faith? (i.e., trusting God in challenging times)
- Explain the interplay that takes place between hope and faith. Why is this important to recognize?
- How can this Christmas not only provide hope, but also challenge you to grow in your faith? Be specific.

**MEDITATION VERSE:** *Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. **Matthew 1:18***