

Week 1- 'Hope'

Watch or listen to 'Hope' word study from The Bible Project.

<https://bit.ly/Hope-Advent>

Reflection.

Advent has been a time of waiting in the Church calendar for centuries and is the time that covers the 4 Sundays in the leadup to Christmas day and the start of the great celebration of Christmas which lasts for two more Sundays. The time of waiting is much longer than the time of the celebration, which reflects the time we might spend waiting in anticipation of things getting better. The waiting for a future that is better than the present is a description of the Biblical idea of hope in the word study. There is also the idea of choosing to have hope based only on the character of God in the time of waiting. It is the character of God that helps us to choose hope above anything else.



Questions.

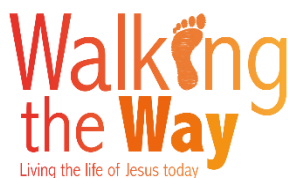
I wonder...

On a scale of 1-10, how "giddy and excited" are you for Christmas this year? Why?

How do you feel about having to wait ("YAKHAL") for things?

What is it you are anticipating or expecting as being better than your present situation or circumstances in the future?

How might you learn to have more trust in God's Character as the motivation for a bold hope, how might looking back to Jesus help you look forward?



Walking the Way Challenge/Activity.

Are there other people in your household or community that might be struggling in this time of 'waiting'. Could you send a card to encourage someone you know? Perhaps you make a financial donation to a local food bank or international charity that seeks to bring hope to those in vulnerable situations. Or try a reverse advent calendar, you can find an example here.

<https://bit.ly/3I6DNh8>