

HOPE *for the* HOLIDAYS

HOPE IN THE UNCERTAINTY

DECEMBER 18
MCA DISCUSSION GUIDE

Sermon Outline

Key verse

*We have this hope as an anchor
for our souls, firm and secure.*

Hebrews 6:19

3 reasons to have hope this Christmas

1. The promises of God are sure

*And so was fulfilled what the Lord
had said through the prophet...*

*Then what was said through the
prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled...*

*So was fulfilled what was said
through the prophets...*

Matthew 2:15, 17, 23

2. When we seek God, we find
Him

*You will seek me and find me when
you seek me with all your heart.*

Jeremiah 29:13

3. Our hope is in Christ

*We have put our hope in the living
God, who is the Savior of all
people.*

1 Timothy 4:10

Opening Thought

No matter how hard he tried, Herod could not halt the plans of God. Despite the difficult circumstances that come your way, know that nothing can separate you from God's love, forgiveness, and redemption. In an uncertain world, Christ gives us hope.

Ice breakers

- Do you tend to be an optimist or pessimist?
- What is your favorite Christmas tradition?

Dig deeper

- In the Old Testament, the word for hope is the Hebrew *tikvah*. The literal definition is a rope or cord. How do you think hope is like a rope?
- Hebrews 6:19 says, "*We have this hope as an anchor for our souls, firm and secure.*" What purpose does an anchor serve? What does that mean for our souls?
- Check out the promises of God. (There are four prophecies about Christ that were fulfilled in Matthew 2)
 - Verse 6: Micah said a ruler and shepherd would come from Bethlehem.
 - Verse 15: Hosea said God's son would come out of Egypt.
 - Verse 18: Jeremiah said there would be weeping like Rachel in Ramah.
 - Verse 23: The prophets said he would be called a Nazarene.
- How long did Joseph and his family stay in Egypt? (Matthew 2:14-15) What spurred their return?
- Herod ordered that all boys under 2 years old be killed. Why do you think that the death of a child is especially tragic? How do you best minister to someone who has lost a child?
- What promises of God are you clinging to right now?

Closing

Read Psalm 62:5-6

Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him.⁶ Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.