

Family Advent Celebration

Week One

HOPE

Gather the family around where the advent candles are located. As you begin, let them know that you are going to share a couple of verses and a story with them. Then light the first candle which for today is called the candle of "Hope."

Genuine hope is not wishful thinking ("I hope we will go out for dinner."), but a firm assurance about things that are unseen and still in the future.

We were saved, and we have this hope. If we see what we are waiting for, that is not really hope. People do not hope for something they already have. ²⁵But we are hoping for something we do not have yet, and we are waiting for it patiently.

Romans 8:24-25 (NCV)

One evening, a young man was "channel surfing" and came upon a church service, already in progress. The choir was singing. Upon its conclusion, the pastor stepped into the pulpit and asked everyone to turn to Nahum 1:7. He joked that most of the congregation would probably find it necessary to use their Bible indexes to find where the book of Nahum was located.

This young man was amused by that . . . and so were they. Then, he read these wonderful words:

"The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in Him."

Wow! This young man thought, isn't that powerful? His thoughts quickly moved to wonder if Christ's disciple Peter was looking through the Old Testament one day and ran across that verse and then wrote, "*Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you*" (1 Peter 5:7)? No? One translation of the Nahum verse reads that our Lord is a "*stronghold in the day of trouble.*" And He certainly is. The young man began to "channel surf" again.

Times of trouble are clearly spelled out for us each day with the news that comes our way via television or newspaper. Not too long ago, most of us decided to keep both doors locked at all times. Crazy things are going on in this world about us, and we realize that it's not going to get any better until Jesus comes. But, regardless of what's happening all around us, we can have a deep settled peace within our souls, because our HOPE is in Him.

"Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the LORD." Psalm 31:24

Have a family member light the "Hope" candle and close in a word of prayer.

[Family Advent Celebration - Week 2](#)