



## Going Deeper into

### Luke 1:5-19 – “Hope Assured”

1. **The Jews in Luke 1 had not heard from God for 400 years, during which time they suffered beneath one empire after another. After all that time, it is likely their faith in the Messiah actually coming had waned.**

We live nearly 2000 years after Jesus’ ministry. What are your thoughts concerning the anticipation of his return?

What are some things that may cause your faith to wane, not just in regards to Jesus’ return, but in general?

Read Romans 8:24-25. What character trait does verse 25 tell us to have while we are waiting for God’s promises to be fulfilled?

***Pray: Dear Heavenly Father, your faithfulness is displayed throughout Scripture, yet I can grow tired and impatient in my daily waiting for you. Add patience to my hope in you, I pray. Amen.***

2. **Our first Sunday in advent focuses on the hope connected to the coming of Jesus.**

What are some things that you are hoping for this Christmas, or maybe in the coming year?

What kind of things do people in our culture hope for?

We saw that the Biblical idea of hope is “something that you trust in with confidence, an expectation of what is certain.” What is the difference between hoping in something and hoping for something?

Considering the Biblical idea of hope, how do you need to change your focus on hope?

***Pray: Dear Lord, forgive me for focusing on the things I want to see happen in my life instead of the one who has given me life. Help me to be confident in Jesus Christ and to keep my hope in him. Amen.***

**3. Zechariah had prayed to God, and the angel Gabriel came to tell him his prayers were going to be answered. But when Zechariah saw him in the temple, he was troubled and fear fell on him.**

What is something you have earnestly asked God for that he has yet to answer?

What would it look like if God did answer this prayer?

Zechariah was afraid of the angel, and then he doubted his words. Share an experience where you have felt the presence of God in response to a prayer, what emotions did you feel and how did you respond?

Zechariah probably did not picture himself as an older father when he prayed to God. What answers to prayer have you received that looked different than you imagined they would be?

***Pray: Heavenly Father, I thank you that you hear me when I pray, and thank you for how you answer my prayers. Help me to recognize your plan in my life, and to see your answers, especially when you answer my prayers in ways different than I had imagined or planned. Amen.***