






	ADVENT: Hope
 BIG IDEA	<p>Hope is confidence based on the character of God, not the conditions of your life.</p>
 ICE BREAKER	<p>What's something you're terrible at waiting for? (Think: red lights, Amazon packages, Christmas morning as a kid, the drive-thru, etc.) When was the last time your impatience got the best of you?</p>
 MAIN POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We Don't Wait Well, But We Wait A Lot <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scripture shows God's people did a lot of waiting (Abraham & Sarah, Joseph, Israel, David) ● Biblical Hope Is Not a Feeling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Greek word: Elpis</i> – confident expectation based on God's character, not our circumstances ○ Hope doesn't remove the tension; it gives you strength inside the tension ● With God, Waiting Is Never Wasted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What God does <i>in us</i> while we wait is often more important than what we're waiting <i>for</i> ● 4. Hope in Jesus Changes How You Wait <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hope gives you stability while you wait ○ Hope gives you joy while you grieve ○ Hope gives you peace while everything feels uncertain
 DISCUSS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Looking at your current season of life, where are you experiencing the tension between trust and uncertainty? What are you waiting on God for right now? 2. Shan described two Hebrew words for hope: <i>qavah</i> (waiting with tension) and <i>yakhal</i> (waiting with trust). Which one do you relate to most right now? Why? 3. Read Romans 15:13. What's the difference between hope that comes from our own optimism versus hope that comes from the Holy Spirit? 4. Can you think of a time when God's delay taught you something or changed you in an important way? What did you learn through that waiting? 5. Read Romans 5:3-5. How have you seen suffering and perseverance produce character and hope in your own life or in someone else's life? 6. Where are you putting your hope: in the things you're praying for, or in the God you're praying to? How can you shift your focus this week?
 NEXT STEP	<p>How can we as a group give hope to others who are waiting? What's one practical way you can bring light and hope to someone this week?</p>
 SCRIPTURE	<p>Romans 15:13. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>Romans 5:3-4 Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.</p>
	<p>Join us next week and invite a friend as we continue the Christmas series: Advent</p>

Questions or Feedback? Email Groups@CentralAZ.com