

FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

Hope

Light the first purple candle.

Read Isaiah 9:1-7

How long have you hoped for something? A day, week, month, year, or even a decade? Can you imagine hoping for centuries? Israel was hoping for a savior for centuries. In a world darkened by sin, they longed for a light that would change everything.

This first Sunday, when we light the candle, we remember to hope. We choose to be a people of optimism. We look forward to the child, the son who is given, and to his government, which rests not on people or worldly structures, but on the prince of peace and the everlasting Father. We look forward to his Kingdom, which will have no end!

Questions:

- *What do you hope God will do in your life?*
- *How do Isaiah's words spark hope in your heart?*

MAKE THE ORDINARY EXTRAORDINARY

Remember: God is with us in our work.

Read: Luke 1:5-24

This week in our sermon, we learned that God does the extraordinary in our ordinary lives. He sends an angel to Zechariah's workplace on an ordinary day and forever changes the course of history, both for Zechariah and the world. And God is still active in our daily work, if only we will have eyes to see.

Family challenge:

Hang a big piece paper on your fridge or wall. Every evening, talk as a family about where you saw God at work in your day. It can be simple things like a beautiful sky you saw on your drive or that they served your favorite lunch in the school cafeteria. Or maybe it's bigger things like making a new friend, getting a promotion, or seeing something wrong be set right. Write these things each day on the big piece of paper so at the end of the week you have a visual representation of all the times God is with us.

WEEKLY READING PLAN

Isaiah 9:1-7

Isaiah 40:1-5 and John 1:19-23

Isaiah 42:1-9

Isaiah 60:1-3

Isaiah 61:1-3