

## ***“A People Formed by Hope”***

**11-30-2025**

*“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.”* Isaiah 9:2

### **What does it look like to be a people formed by hope?**

#### **1. Hope Begins With God’s Promise, Not Our Circumstances**

*2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.*

*3 You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.*

*4 For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.*

*5 For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.*

*6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

*7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.* Isaiah 9:2–7

**Their hope was in the promise of God.**

#### **2. Hope Produces a Faith That Says “Yes” to God**

*26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary.*

*28 And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!”*

*29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.*

*30 And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.*

*31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.*

*32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,*

*33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”*

*34 And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”*

*35 And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.*

*36 And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.*

**37** *For nothing will be impossible with God."*

**38** *And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her. Luke 1:26–38*

*"Let it be to me according to your word."*

**"God, if You said it, I'll step into it."**

### **3. Hope Is Shared in Community: We Carry Hope Together**

**39** *In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah,*

**40** *and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.*

**41** *And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit,*

**42** *and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!*

**43** *And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?*

**44** *For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.*

**45** *And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." Luke 1:39-45*

### **4. Hope Shapes Our Mission: Hope Makes Disciples**

**13** *I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Romans 15:13