

Sermon: Deep Hope

Date: 12/09/18

Speaker: Michael Field

## Connect

*Question of the Day. Highs and Lows. Share how last week's message influenced your week.*

Last week, Pastor Michael Lee said that there is beauty when the church becomes a safe place for messy people. What was it like to apply this message to your life this past week?

## Engage: Sermon Review + Discussion

*Read the Scripture Passage. Recap of the Message.*

Read Matthew 1:18-25; 2:13-23 together as a LifeGroup. This is the second week of our Advent series, "Hope Has Come," a 4-week journey to the birth of Christ. In today's passage, we see that Mary and Joseph encounter deep hope in their lives. Pastor Michael challenged our concept of "hope." We can't arrive at *Deep Hope* until we (1) Face our fears and (2) Learn how to trust.

## Discussion Questions

Pastor Michael said the soil for a true, deep hope is when you find yourself in a "hopeless" situation that you can't get yourself out of. He exhorted us to embrace a life of deep hope by *facing our fear* and *learning to trust*.

1. *Face our fear.* In this story, we find Joseph in a space of fight or flight in response to fear. What situations and circumstances in your life are you "fighting" (trying to control) or "fleeing" (ignoring/running) from? What would it look like to go from fight, or flight, to trust?
2. *Learn how to trust.* The angel of God didn't merely say, "Do not fear," he also gave Joseph directions. Is there any place in your life where you're afraid to follow God's direction? What does it practically look like to trust God in this season of your life?
3. *Trusting God.* We find in this story that Mary and Joseph fulfill three different prophecies because they allow God's word to *comfort* and *correct* them. How can God's word not merely comfort you, but correct you?

## Apply: Next Faithful Step

Deep hope is not hoping *for* something, but it is hoping *in* a person named Jesus. The deepest hope we could ever have is that God's will would be done. As you look at the various areas of your life (i.e. family, work, ministry, school, relationships, etc.), what does it look like to live into deep hope this week?

## Prayer

Take some time to hear prayer requests from each member of your LifeGroup. As you lean into the hope of Jesus coming this Advent season, pray for one another, for your families, communities, our church, and the world.