



**Life Group Discussion Guide**  
**The Thrill of Hope**  
**The Coming of Hope – Luke 1:5-24**  
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Main thought:

The best response to times when God seems to be silent in our lives is to remain faithful to our callings as Christians. This is because our hope comes from trusting in God, who is faithful to us even through the most difficult situations and will use those for our good and His glory.

Principles:

1. Hope comes from faith – to be sure of what you hope for
2. Hope keeps you from becoming cynical
3. There is purpose in the silence

How to strengthen hope in a silent or difficult time:

- Remain faithful to your calling
- Meditate on times of great faithfulness from God in your life
- Don't stop praying
- Don't miss what God is doing right now

Welcome and Fellowship Time (suggested time 10 min)

Open in Prayer

Discussion Starter (suggested sharing time 5-10 min)

- Share a time in your life where it was obvious to you that God was at work – some examples might include an answered prayer, a moment of divine provision, an unexpected blessing, a time of great peace or steadiness in the midst of difficulty, or any other situation where God made Himself known to you in an obvious way.

Week in Review (suggested sharing time 5-10 min)

- What have you done this week to increase unity with other believers?

Sermon Review (suggested time 15 min)

Review the passages from Sunday's message and discuss the following questions.

- What stood out to you from this message?



- What were the key aspects to how Zechariah handled God's silence that are commendable?
- What did Zechariah do that caused Gabriel to reprimand him? How can we keep from falling into this same temptation?

Digging Deeper (suggested time 15 min)

Read Malachi 4:1-6 and discuss the following questions.

- What truths from this Scripture do you think Zechariah may have found hope in during the time of silence in Israel and in his own life?
- What parallels or connections do you see between this Scripture and the Luke 1 account of the events with Zechariah? (Be sure to compare it with Luke 1:68-79 as well.)
- What are some Scriptures you see as a giving hope for the church today (both corporately and/or for you as an individual) as we await the second coming of Jesus?

Application (suggested time 10 minutes)

- What makes hope so valuable for us as Christians?
- What struggles or difficulties can you turn into opportunities for trusting Jesus by bringing them to Him in prayer today?
- Zechariah was faithful in the midst of the silence by continuing to serve in the temple, even though he never knew if he himself would see the answer from God. What has God called you to follow through on in obedience as you wait upon the Lord?

Spend time gathering prayer requests, praying for each other & praying for application of the study in the lives of the group members. (Suggested time 20 minutes)