

The background features a light blue gradient with faint, stylized illustrations of trees and a landscape on the left and right sides. The word "HOPE" is centered in a large, teal, serif font with a slight shadow effect.

HOPE

The Hope for a Messiah

The First Candle of Advent - Hope

- * **Hope means hoping when things are hopeless, or it is no virtue at all... As long as matters are really hopeful, hope is mere flattery or platitude; it is only when everything is hopeless that hope begins to be a strength. GK Chesterton**
- * **Sometimes called the Prophets candle because in hopeless situations they spoke of HOPE in God**
- * **May the God of *hope* fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in *hope*. Rom.15:13**

The Principles of Hope

- 1. We are confronted with, by man's view, a hopeless situation**
- 2. We receive from God's Word, God's promises for that circumstance.**
- 3. By faith we act as the promise tells us to**
- 4. With Joy we see God's fulfillment, either by faith or by sight. Heb.11:13**
- 5. Ps.137:1-6 cf. Jer.29:4-14; Ezra 1:1;**

A Circumstance of Hopelessness

- ✿ **Ezk.36:1-36– A situation with NO Hope**
- ✿ **Ezk.37:1-3 – The illustration of no Hope**
- ✿ **4-6 –The Word of the Lord is the Promise on which Hope gives life to action**
- ✿ **7-10 is the action of Faith in the Promise. We act in faith, and God responds**
- ✿ **11-14 God’s application of Hope – Israel is a nation**
- ✿ **Faith from Hope means marrying a pregnant woman because God said to. Mat.1:18-25**

Hope for Today

* **Matt.6:25-34**

* **What is worry?**

* **“The ‘problem’ is not the problem. It is your attitude toward the ‘problem’ that is the problem”**

* **Worry is the belief that God is not King of the Kingdom and cannot or will not provide for my physical and material needs**

* **It is the belief that God and will not keep His promises.**

Hope for Today

* Questions to consider

1. What is life? – Matt.6:25

* Food , water and clothing are all encompassing – Maslow

2. Argument from the lesser to the greater. If God looks after birds will He look after you?



Questions To Consider

3. **Where is our hope placed when we worry?**
 4. **What action of faith is required of us? 31**
 5. **What does he promise to provide? 32**
 6. **Argument from greater to lesser. If cares for greater needs why not lesser? 33**
 7. **Why do we worry?**
- * God delights in leading us into opportunities that are beyond our abilities so that He can reveal more of His character to us and that He, as God, is at work today**

Living In Hope Today

- ✧ **Remember your God is a Heavenly FATHER.**
 - ✧ **He LOVES you**
 - ✧ **He is Sovereign**
 - ✧ **He is All Powerful**
- ✧ **Remember there is nothing in your life that God has not allowed, and that he wants to use it for your good**
- ✧ **For I know the plans I have for you, plans for *shalom* and not for evil, to give you a future and a *hope*. Jer. 29:11**
- ✧ **Belief in the promise of God kept Mary and Joseph**