

Advent 2025: Recovering Wonder in an Age of Algorithms Week 1: Hope

Discussion Guide – November 30, 2025

Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord.
Lord, hear my voice.
Let your ears be attentive
to my cry for mercy.
If you, Lord, kept a record of sins,
Lord, who could stand?
But with you there is forgiveness,
so that we can, with reverence, serve you. CLICK
I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits,
and in his word I put my hope.
I wait for the Lord
more than watchmen wait for the morning,
more than watchmen wait for the morning.
Israel, put your hope in the Lord,
for with the Lord is unfailing love
and with him is full redemption.
He himself will redeem Israel
from all their sins. Psalm 130

“The Lord, the Lord,
the compassionate and gracious God,
slow to anger,
abounding in love and faithfulness,
maintaining love to thousands
and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin.” Ex. 34:6b-7a

So if you’re serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, *act* like it. Pursue the things over which Christ presides. Don’t shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up, and be alert to what is going on around Christ—that’s where the action is. See things from *his* perspective. Col. 3:1-2 (The Message)

Quotes

Biblical hope is the stubborn confidence that God’s character is more trustworthy than whatever darkness we’re witnessing. – Pastor Steve

Discussion Questions

1. Where have you felt the “algorithm effect” in your life lately?
2. Where have you found yourself “in the depths” this year? And what helps you keep a stubborn confidence in God’s character even when circumstances pull you toward discouragement?
3. The watchmen don’t create the sunrise — they stay awake for it. What practices help you stay awake to the reality of God’s presence, goodness and redemption — especially when the world (or your feed) is discipling you into despair?
4. Where do you see signs of redemption, restoration or hope in your life, your relationships or our city that the “algorithm” would never show you?
5. Paul says, “Look up... be alert to what is going on around Christ.” What would it look like for you this Advent to intentionally “look up” — to set your mind on the things Christ is doing — and how might that shift your outlook, habits or inner posture from despair to hope?

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