

**MESSAGE BIG IDEA**

Even when things don't go our way, we can remain hopeful because of the hope Christ brings.

**SCRIPTURE**

Luke 1:5-25, Luke 1:57-80

**POINTS TO KEEP IN MIND**

The hope of a Christ-follower is not blind optimism or pretense. Our hope is rooted in a historical happening 2000 years ago in a little town called Bethlehem. Here another child was born, the Savior of the world. And he came so that we could find our way back to God and live with the hope that one day there will be no more pain, no more unmet longing, no more disappointment.

The guide focuses more on the trust dimension of having hope amid disappointment, but you may want to keep the idea of waiting and remembering in your mind as you guide your group through what it means to trust God even when life isn't what you expect.

**BIBLE STUDY**

**Luke 1:5-25.** Even the most righteous people suffer disappointments. Through all the years of disappointment, Zechariah remained faithful to God. On this particular day, he was not only chosen by an extremely long shot lottery for the most important task of his priesthood but is also told he will have a son.

**Luke 1:57-80.** Though Zechariah did suffer for his doubt, he was fully restored in the fulfillment of Gabriel's promise from God. He went on to prophesy John would prepare the way for the Messiah.

**QUOTES**

*Live, then, and be happy, beloved children of my heart, and never forget, that until the day God will deign to reveal the future to man, all human wisdom is contained in these two words, Wait and Hope. – Alexandre Dumas*

*"We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope." – Martin Luther King, Jr.*

*"Let your hopes, not your hurts, shape your future." – Robert H. Schuller*