

Hope - A Righteous Branch Study Guide

1. **Advent** is to live within the tension of the **now and not yet**. As we await the arrival of Christ, we are told to keep believing, and we are given '**shadows**' of Christ (Colossians 2:17) to help us believe. One such 'shadow', **The Righteous Branch**, was given to Jeremiah who wrote to his people while Jerusalem was under siege. He was in prison, the days were dark, and the generation was doing "*nothing but evil*" (Jeremiah 32:30). Share some of the sentiment of what it is like to feel hopeless. What must the people have felt during those days? Discuss.

2. Read Jeremiah 33:14-15.

Now take a look at the 'promise' God made to Abram and David, by reading **Genesis 12:2-3, and 2 Samuel 7:13-16**. What was the promise? How would this affirmation to 'fulfill' the promise have made people think differently in the midst of their situation? How has God challenged you in your life to keep believing (see also **Psalm 138:8**)? How has your "*needing Him become your knowing Him*"? (Sarah Young, Jesus Calling). In other words, how can dire situations lead to a deeper intimacy with God? Discuss.

3. Read Jeremiah 33:14-15 again.

Now focus on verse 15. From our perspective, we get to see the fulfillment of this 'Righteous Branch' prophecy in Christ. Read **Revelation 22:16, John 15:4-5, and Romans 11:17**. Notice that Jesus is the fulfillment of the promise and that believers have been grafted into His righteous Branch. What are the implications of the fact that you have been grafted in? How does that change your approach to things as you live in the tension of the now and not yet? Discuss.

Application

Take a few moments to pray quietly and tell Jesus where you feel inadequate and could use His help right now. Consider sharing your thoughts with the group. Now open it up for prayers of encouragement for each other. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead your group in praying out loud for each other.

Hope - A Righteous Branch Message Outline

Advent- Latin 'Adventus' = Coming!

Colossians 2:17

"These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ."

Shadows

Genesis- Christ is the seed of the woman.

Exodus- The Passover Lamb.

Leviticus- The High Priest.

Numbers- Manna from heaven!

Deuteronomy- The great Prophet to come.

Joshua- The captain of the Lord of Hosts.

Judges- The great Lawgiver and the Judge.

Kings- The glorious King.

Ruth- The kinsman Redeemer.

Psalms- The great Shepherd.

Malachi- The Son of Righteousness.

Advent Shadows

*The Righteous Branch- Jeremiah 33:14-15

The Strong Shepherd- Micah 5:1-5

The Mighty Victor- Zephaniah 3:14-20

The Righteous Branch

Jeremiah 33:3

"Call to me and I will answer you and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known."

Big Idea: Don't lose hope! Your needing Him will become your knowing Him.

A. Hope is a Promise (Jeremiah 33:14)

14 "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when **I will fulfill the promise** I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

Genesis 12:2-3- God's promise to Abram

And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you ...and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

2 Samuel 7:13-16 God's promise to David

"...I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 I will be his Father, and he will be my son... 16 Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your **throne shall be established forever.**"

Revelation 22:16 Jesus: "I am the Root and the Offspring of David."

Big Idea: Don't lose hope! Your needing Him will become your knowing Him.

B. Hope is a Person (Jeremiah 33:15)

15 In those days and at that time I will cause a **righteous Branch** to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

Jesus Christ, The Righteous Branch!

John 15:5- "I am the vine; **you are the branches.** Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

Romans 11:17

"...you, although a wild olive shoot, were **grafted in** among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree."

C. Hope Changes us! (Jeremiah 33:15)

15 In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall **execute justice and righteousness** in the land.

Isaiah 26:12

"O LORD, you will ordain peace for us, for you have indeed done for us all our works."

Martin Luther:

"You, sir Satan, your menaces and terrors trouble me not, for why? For there is one who is called, "The LORD our righteousness", on whom I believe! He it is who has abrogated the law, condemned sin, abolished death, destroyed hell, and is a Satan to thee o Satan."

Big Idea: Don't lose hope! Your needing Him will become your knowing Him.