

# Week 1: Hope

## Scripture

Jeremiah 23:5

## Activity

### Christmas Countdown

To help mark the days of Advent leading up to Christmas, use construction paper to make a paper chain to use as a countdown. Cut the construction paper into 29 1-inch-wide strips (one for each day of Advent). Then, loop a strip and staple together, creating a chain as you go. Display your chain somewhere you will see it often. Each day, remove a link from the chain and discuss together:

**What was special about today?**

**How did you experience God today?**

## Share

One definition of hope is to trust in God's promises. What gives you hope? How do you share hope with others?

## Advent Wreath

If you are using an Advent wreath, light or color the first candle.

## Liturgy/Prayer

Let's take a moment and ask the God who still speaks to us to help us listen. This prayer is a call and response. I'll say a line, then we will all respond with "Lord, help me listen; Lord, help me pray."

**Leader:** God who still speaks, help me to hear your voice in the stories, poems, and prayers of the Bible.

**All:** Lord, help me listen; Lord, help me pray.

**Leader:** God who still speaks, help me hear your voice in the words of the prophets.

**All:** Lord, help me listen; Lord, help me pray.

**Leader:** God who still speaks, help me hear your voice in nature, creation, and in the majesty of all you designed.

**All:** Lord, help me listen; Lord, help me pray.

**Leader:** God who still speaks, help me hear your voice in music, art, and all the ways you've given us to express ourselves.

**All:** Lord, help me listen; Lord, help me pray.

**Leader:** God who still speaks, help me hear your voice in the words, faces, and presence of those who love me.

**All:** Lord, help me listen; Lord, help me pray.

**All:** Amen.