



Week 2 | Advent | December 4

Key Focus: With God the unlikely are likely.

Opening Up:

- Are you a glass is half full or half empty kind of person? Explain.
- In what circumstances are you most likely to be optimistic? Explain. (Hobbies, Relationships, Work, etc.)
- In what circumstances are you most like to be pessimistic? Explain. (Hobbies, Relationships, Work, etc.)
- Is it better for you in your life to anticipate the worst or to expect the best in a given situation? Explain.

Reference: Luke 1:5-25

Discuss:

1. How might this statement be true, "The greatest threat to hope is not sadness; it's cynicism."
2. Zachariah had plenty of reasons to be cynical, such as being old and Elizabeth being barren. The evidence of life stood in contrast to the promises of God. Can you relate to Zachariah? Have you ever been in a place where the evidence of life negatively contrasted with the promises of God? How did you deal with it?
3. Do you root for the underdog? What excites you about an underdog winning?
4. How does being an underdog with God change things?
5. Is your prayer more likely to read like a to do list that might get done without God's help anyway, or list of faith-filled big-thinking prayers that totally depend on God? Explain.
6. Zachariah is praying for a big thing, but he still doubts. Can you relate?
7. We read in 1 John 5:14 that if we pray God's will He hears it. How does someone pray God's will?
8. The christian cynic believes that miracles are for the bible of other people, but not for them. How do you deal with this kind of cynicism in your walk with God?
9. In sports we believe anything can happen. In your life of faith, do you feel the same way? Do you approach a football game with more hope, suspense, and excitement than you do your life with God?
10. Pray.