

## HOPING

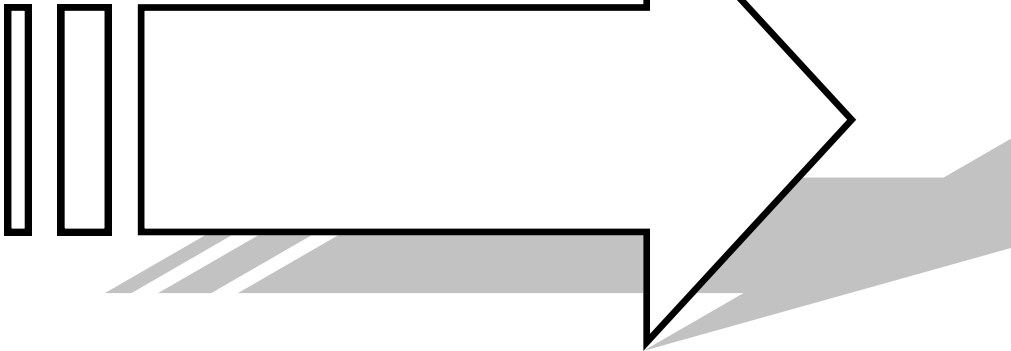
God's Word calls us to hope. To hope is not to lose touch with reality but to trust that what seems impossible may be possible!

*Read the text yet another time. Reflect and share on some of the following:*



1. (a) John points to one coming after him. To whom do people point today? (b) What can we say to the Lord about these people?
2. (a) Who are the voices crying out in our communities, in our church, in our world today? (b) What can we say to the Lord about these people?
3. (a) What are the hopes of the prophets today? (b) What can we say to the Lord about these hopes?
4. (a) What hope does this passage awaken in you today? (b) What do you want to say to the Lord about this hope?

You may like to write your hopes / action in this arrow



**Remember: You may be the only Gospel that people ever read.**

# Hearing Happening Hoping

**Keeping AWAKE with  
Scripture this Advent**

**Week 2 ~ Mark 1:1-18**



## Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

John the baptiser appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is stronger than I am is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."

## HEARING

Read the text 2-3 times, then reflect and share on some of the following:

1. What words resonate with you?
2. What puzzles you? What disturbs you?
3. According to Mark, what are the two things the messenger does?
4. How did the people respond to John?

5. Why do you think they responded in this way?
6. What is John's task? How does John see his task?

**HAPPENING ~ Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.**

**This Scripture happens in our own lives and in the world around us**



1. Who is preparing the way of the Lord in our world today?
2. What are the wildernesses of our world today?
3. Who is crying out in those wildernesses? What are they saying?

