



MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET | HOPE

Given that this group discussion hits the Sunday after Thanksgiving, not many may see this. For the faithful few who do, have fun with it. There are great spiritual lessons to learn about Jesus and, yes, Christmas, so enjoy the series and feel the joy the season brings. Be thankful for the Savior who was born for our redemption. As a character from my fave story of all time, *A Christmas Carol*, famously said, “*God bless us, everyone.*”

Do you have a favorite Christmas movie? What makes it meaningful for you?

What has been your experience observing Advent?

TALK ABOUT IT

In *Miracle on 34th Street*, Susan is raised not to believe in anything she can’t logically prove.

Where do you see that same mindset in your religious experience?

Where do you see it in our culture today?

Kris Kringle brings a spark of kindness, generosity, and belief into a skeptical world.

Why do you think that theme still resonates with people 70+ years later?

Read Job 2:9; 12:4. Hope Breaking into Darkness

Job is going through some severe trials emotionally, physically, and spiritually. Job isn’t mocked for believing God exists — he’s mocked for **continuing to trust** God in hardship.

Why is trusting God often harder than believing in God?

We always close our time together in prayer. We are doing something different this week. The beginning of the Gospel of John is one of the most powerful descriptions of what God is doing through Jesus. Let’s read this together then pray a prayer of hope for the promise of God through Christ.

Read John 1:1-18.

John says, “*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*”

Where do you personally need that hope right now?

APPLY IT

Why is hope often difficult to hold onto?

What threatens your hope the most?

Advent calls us to *wait* and *prepare*.

What's one thing you can do this week to practice "hopeful waiting"?

Who in your life needs a reminder of hope right now, and how can you encourage them? (Be careful if it's confidential.)