

**Make Room for Hope**  
December 3, 2023

*John 10:10b, LB – [Jesus said,] “My purpose is to give life in all its fullness.”*

*Main Passage: Matthew 2:1-8, 12-18, NIV*

**Three Ways We Shut Out God’s Hope**

**1. I shut out God’s hope when \_\_\_\_\_**

**Herod “the Great”:**

*Romans 5:20b-21, NLT – But as people sinned more and more, God’s wonderful grace became more abundant. So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God’s wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*John 1:5, NLT – The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

What do we do with doubt?

*Jude 1:22. GW – Show mercy to those who have doubts.*

*Proverbs 3:5, NLT – Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.*

**2. I shut out God’s hope when \_\_\_\_\_**

*Matthew 2:14, NIV – So [upon Herod’s declaration of a massacre, Joseph] got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt.*

*1 Peter 5:8, LB – Be careful—watch out for attacks from Satan, your great enemy. He prowls around like a hungry, roaring lion, looking for some victim to tear apart.*

*Habakkuk 2:3, LB – But these things I plan won't happen right away. Slowly, steadily, surely, the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled. If it seems slow, do not despair, for these things will surely come to pass. Just be patient! They will not be overdue a single day!*

*1 Peter 1:13, NIV – Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.*

*2 Thessalonians 3:3, NIV – But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.*

### 3. I shut out God's hope when \_\_\_\_\_

*Matthew 2:18, NIV – A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.*

Jesus is called the “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

To console means...

*Psalms 23:3a, AMPC – He refreshes and restores my life (my self).*

In what area of my life do I need God to refresh and restore? Name it and ask him.

*Isaiah 49:13, NLT – Sing for joy, O heavens! Rejoice, O earth! Burst into song, O mountains! For the Lord has comforted his people and will have compassion on them in their suffering.*

*Isaiah 52:9, NIV – Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.*

### Reflection

What are my doubts?

Where am I discouraged?

What's causing my discouragement?

Is there bitterness in me—anger, jealousy, unforgiveness, hurt, resentment, self-pity, etc.—that's causing me to refuse the consolation and comfort God wants to give me *right now*?

Now, choose to make room for God's hope by asking God to help you and to fill you with all the fullness of Christ (see John 10:10 above). And rejoice. Christ is come.