

STUDY GUIDE

beautiful
HOPE

Finding Hope Every Day in a Broken World

**POPE FRANCIS ARCHBISHOP JOSÉ H. GOMEZ MATTHEW KELLY
DR. ALLEN R. HUNT FR. MIKE SCHMITZ SR. MIRIAM JAMES HEIDLAND
FR. JACQUES PHILIPPE AND MANY MORE CONTRIBUTORS**

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 **Dynamic Catholic**
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INTRODUCTION

What gives you hope? What are your hopes and dreams—for yourself, your children, your church, your community, your nation? What sustains that hope and turns those dreams into reality? What are some of the unique ways you bring hope to people in your life? The contributors featured in *Beautiful Hope* offer intensely personal answers to these questions. Some of them are well-known authors and speakers, but many are ordinary Catholics dealing with the challenges and problems of everyday life, just like you. Their stories are meant to spark your own exploration of hope and increase its abundance in your life.

This study guide is designed to accompany Dynamic Catholic's 2017 Best Advent Ever program. Daily videos from Matthew Kelly, Allen Hunt, and members of the Dynamic Catholic team give personal reflections on topics related to the chapters of *Beautiful Hope* to enhance your group's experience with the book. You and your group can sign up at **DynamicCatholic.com/AdventSignUp** to get emails sent straight to your inboxes everyday during Advent.

We hope you enjoy *Beautiful Hope*, and we pray this study guide is a useful resource for your journey to Christmas.

May God bless you and bring you closer to him each day this Advent,

The Dynamic Catholic Team

STUDY GUIDE PURPOSE AND FORMAT

The purpose of this study guide is to help readers dive deeper into *Beautiful Hope* by applying the topics of the book to their everyday lives, specifically in light of the Advent and Christmas seasons. While it has been created primarily for use in small faith groups and book clubs, it can also be used by individuals for personal reflections.

Visit **DynamicCatholic.com/FindHope** to get your copy of the newly released *Beautiful Hope*.

The study guide consists of six sessions. With this year's Advent season being only three weeks, we recommend that you meet twice a week. You can also meet once a week and go through two sessions at a time, or you can continue to meet after Christmas Day.

Each session follows the same format:

OPENING PRAYER
WATCH VIDEO(S)
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
CLOSING PRAYER
ANNOUNCEMENTS

We recommend that a group meets for 60-90 minutes and agrees on a fixed length of time. If your group does not get through all the discussion questions during that time, that's okay. Spend the time on the questions that are most relevant to your group.

It is assumed that participants will have completed the reading assignment before attending each session. We recommend that participants also sign up for Best Advent Ever at **DynamicCatholic.com/AdventSignUp** so they can watch the daily videos throughout Advent. This will help them stay more engaged and will better prepare them for group discussion.

Note: Depending on the day you meet, different videos will be available. You can select the appropriate video from the selection depending on your group's schedule. A new video will be posted each day during Advent. You can access the videos at **BestAdventEver.com/ViewVideos** starting December 3, or visit **DynamicCatholic.com/AdventSignUp** to sign up to receive them in your inbox daily.

READING SCHEDULE

SESSION ONE: WISHFUL THINKING

Read pages 1-22

PRELUDE BY MATTHEW KELLY

INTRODUCTION: NEVER LOSE HOPE BY POPE FRANCIS

A POWERFUL FORCE *Fr. Mike Schmitz*

SESSION TWO: CHOOSING HOPE

Read pages 23-42

THE TRIUMPH OF HOPE *Sr. Miriam James Heidland*

EXPECT THE IMPOSSIBLE *Fr. Jacques Philippe*

A FATHER'S HOPE *Tom Pagano*

THE PATH OF HOPE *Fr. J. Michael Sparough*

SESSION THREE: HOPE IN THE CHURCH

Read pages 45-61

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE *Jessica Lusher Gravagna*

LIVE DIFFERENTLY *Cardinal Donald Wuerl*

IF IT ALL DEPENDS ON ME *Pat McKeown*

SESSION FOUR: HOPE IN ACTION

Read pages 62-79

ANSWERING THE CALL *Fr. Jonathan Meyer*

A GOD OF MIRACLES *Linda Maliani*

SOUL SEARCHING *Derek Gazal*

SESSION FIVE: FINDING HOPE

Read pages 80-93

NADIA *Rebecca Recznik*

AN ANNIVERSARY TO REMEMBER *Marguerite Brambani*

ORDINARY GRACE *Talia Westerby*

SESSION SIX: BECOMING HOPE

Read pages 96-115

SCHOOL OF HOPE *Archbishop José H. Gomez*

INSTRUMENTS OF GIALLO *Msgr. Geno Sylva*

THE ABC'S OF HOPE *Allen R. Hunt*

HANDS OF HOPE *Grandpa Hess*

SESSION ONE: WISHFUL THINKING

Reading: Pages 1-22

OPENING PRAYER:

Loving Father,

Open our hearts and minds

and allow us to see the beauty of our faith.

Show us what is possible and fill us with the grace, strength,

and wisdom to live all the good things

we explore here together.

Send your Spirit upon us so that we can discover your dream

for us to become the-best-version-of-ourselves,

and have the courage to defend and celebrate this true self

in every moment of our days.

We ask you to bless in a special way the hungry, the lonely,

the sick, and the discouraged. Remind us of our duty toward

them and inspire us to be filled with a profound gratitude.

We ask all this through your Son, Jesus.

Amen.

WATCH VIDEO(S)

Watch Day 1: Beautiful Hope

Other recommended video options include:

Day 2: Wishful Thinking

Day 3: Beyond Optimism

(Visit **BestAdventEver.com/ViewVideos** to see which videos are available at your group's meeting time.)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are you hoping for this Christmas?
2. What would your life look like without hope?
3. Pope Francis said the birth of Jesus gives our hope a destination. What does he mean by that?
4. Do you live in expectation of seeing God?
5. How does hope make you different?
6. What is the difference between hope and optimism?
7. How can you reconnect with God's story this Advent?
8. Father Mike Schmitz said a person of hope is a person of meaning and action. What does he mean by that?
9. How does hope play a role in your decision making?

CLOSING PRAYER

The Dynamic Catholic Prayer

Loving Father,
I invite you into my life today
and make myself available to you.
Help me to become the-best-version-of-myself
by seeking your will and becoming a living example
of your love in the world.
Open my heart to the areas of my life that need to change
in order for me to carry out the mission
and experience the joy you have imagined for my life.
Inspire me to live the Catholic faith in ways that are
dynamic and engaging.
Show me how to best get involved in the life of my parish.
Make our community hungry for best practices
and continuous learning.
Give me courage when I am afraid,
hope when I am discouraged,
and clarity in times of decision.
Teach me to enjoy uncertainty and lead your Church
to become all you imagined it would be
for the people of our times.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The reading assignment for our next gathering is pages 23–42.
- If you haven't signed up for Best Advent Ever yet, go to **DynamicCatholic.com/AdventSignUp** to get daily videos sent straight to your inbox. Matthew Kelly, Allen Hunt, and Dynamic Catholic team members will provide inspiration and insights that accompany each chapter of Beautiful Hope.
- Our next gathering will be . . . (date, place, and time).

SESSION TWO

CHOOSING HOPE

Reading: Pages 23–42

OPENING PRAYER:

Loving Father,
Open our hearts and minds
and allow us to see the beauty of our faith.
Show us what is possible and fill us with the grace, strength,
and wisdom to live all the good things
we explore here together.
Send your Spirit upon us so that we can discover your dream
for us to become the-best-version-of-ourselves,
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in every moment of our days.
We ask you to bless in a special way the hungry, the lonely,
the sick, and the discouraged. Remind us of our duty toward
them and inspire us to be filled with a profound gratitude.
We ask all this through your Son, Jesus.

Amen.

WATCH VIDEO(S)

Watch Day 4: Never Alone

Other recommended video options include:

Day 5: Expect the Impossible

Day 6: A Father's Hope

(Visit [BestAdventEver.com/ViewVideos](https://www.bestadventever.com/viewvideos) to see which videos are available at your group's meeting time.)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How has hope sustained you in suffering?
2. Have you ever been disappointed when you put hope in something or someone other than God?
3. How is your relationship with God the Father?
4. Do you believe God is fulfilling his promises in your life?
5. What is something humanly impossible that you are expecting from God?
6. What dream inspires your hope for your future?
7. In what situation is God calling you to become a person of hope?

CLOSING PRAYER

The Dynamic Catholic Prayer

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and continuous learning.
Give me courage when I am afraid,
hope when I am discouraged,
and clarity in times of decision.
Teach me to enjoy uncertainty and lead your Church
to become all you imagined it would be
for the people of our times.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The reading assignment for our next gathering is pages 45-61.
- Watch the Best Advent Ever videos each day this week.
- Invite your friends and family to visit at DynamicCatholic.com/AdventSignUp to sign up for Best Advent Ever.
- Our next gathering will be . . . (date, place, and time).

SESSION THREE

HOPE IN THE CHURCH

Reading: Pages 45–61

OPENING PRAYER:

Loving Father,

Open our hearts and minds

and allow us to see the beauty of our faith.

Show us what is possible and fill us with the grace, strength,

and wisdom to live all the good things

we explore here together.

Send your Spirit upon us so that we can discover your dream

for us to become the-best-version-of-ourselves,

and have the courage to defend and celebrate this true self

in every moment of our days.

We ask you to bless in a special way the hungry, the lonely,

the sick, and the discouraged. Remind us of our duty toward

them and inspire us to be filled with a profound gratitude.

We ask all this through your Son, Jesus.

Amen.

WATCH VIDEO(S)

Watch Day 9: This Little Light of Mine

Other recommended video options include:

Day 10: Choosing Hope

Day 11: If It All Depends on Me

(Visit [BestAdventEver.com/ViewVideos](https://www.BestAdventEver.com/ViewVideos) to see which videos are available at your group's meeting time.)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is stopping you from hoping?
2. If you were to write your own eulogy, what would it say?
3. How does the Church give you hope?
4. How are you feeding your hope this Advent? Have you considered going to Confession?
5. When have you been surprised by hope?
6. How can your parish respond to God's call to help carry someone else's cross this Advent?
7. Do you act like it all depends on God, or like it all depends on you?

CLOSING PRAYER

The Dynamic Catholic Prayer

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in order for me to carry out the mission
and experience the joy you have imagined for my life.
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Give me courage when I am afraid,
hope when I am discouraged,
and clarity in times of decision.
Teach me to enjoy uncertainty and lead your Church
to become all you imagined it would be
for the people of our times.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The reading assignment for our next gathering is pages 62-79.
- Watch the Best Advent Ever videos each day this week.
- If you are enjoying this experience, please visit **BestAdventEver.com/Mission** to learn more about the Dynamic Catholic mission and all the ways they are working to re-energize the Catholic Church.
- Our next gathering will be . . . (date, place, and time).

SESSION FOUR

HOPE IN ACTION

Reading: Pages 62-79

OPENING PRAYER:

Loving Father,
Open our hearts and minds
and allow us to see the beauty of our faith.
Show us what is possible and fill us with the grace, strength,
and wisdom to live all the good things
we explore here together.
Send your Spirit upon us so that we can discover your dream
for us to become the-best-version-of-ourselves,
and have the courage to defend and celebrate this true self
in every moment of our days.
We ask you to bless in a special way the hungry, the lonely,
the sick, and the discouraged. Remind us of our duty toward
them and inspire us to be filled with a profound gratitude.
We ask all this through your Son, Jesus.

Amen.

WATCH VIDEO(S)

Watch Day 14: Soul Searching

Other recommended video options include:

Day 12: No One Hopes Alone

Day 13: A God of Miracles

(Visit [BestAdventEver.com/ViewVideos](https://www.bestadventever.com/ViewVideos) to see which videos are available at your group's meeting time.)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who can you walk with and encourage in their time of need?
2. Describe when you experienced a miracle in your life.
3. How available are you to God this Advent?
4. How has generosity made you a person of hope?
5. What's standing between you and an intimate, hope-filled relationship with God?
6. What do these words of Jesus mean to you: "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well" (Matthew 6:33)?
7. Where in your life do you need to place God at the center?

CLOSING PRAYER

The Dynamic Catholic Prayer

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Make our community hungry for best practices
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Give me courage when I am afraid,
hope when I am discouraged,
and clarity in times of decision.
Teach me to enjoy uncertainty and lead your Church
to become all you imagined it would be
for the people of our times.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The reading assignment for our next gathering is pages 80–93.
- Watch the Best Advent Ever videos each day this week.
- Do you want to have a radically different experience at Mass on Sunday? Request a free Mass journal at DynamicCatholic.com/FreeJournal (just pay shipping).
- Our next gathering will be . . . (date, place, and time).

SESSION FIVE

FINDING HOPE

Reading: Pages 80–93

OPENING PRAYER:

Loving Father,

Open our hearts and minds

and allow us to see the beauty of our faith.

Show us what is possible and fill us with the grace, strength,

and wisdom to live all the good things

we explore here together.

Send your Spirit upon us so that we can discover your dream

for us to become the-best-version-of-ourselves,

and have the courage to defend and celebrate this true self

in every moment of our days.

We ask you to bless in a special way the hungry, the lonely,

the sick, and the discouraged. Remind us of our duty toward

them and inspire us to be filled with a profound gratitude.

We ask all this through your Son, Jesus.

Amen.

WATCH VIDEO(S)

Watch Day 16: The Antidote

Other recommended video options include:

Day 17: Look Up

Day 18: Know Your Limits

(Visit **BestAdventEver.com/ViewVideos** to see which videos are available at your group's meeting time.)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Where could gratitude be a remedy in your life?
2. How does Mary's yes to God inspire you to hope?
3. How often do you look at your life through the lens of the eternal?
4. What is God giving you the chance to say yes to this Advent?
5. Do you have a relationship that needs to rediscover its purpose?
6. How often do you think about heaven?
7. When is a time in your life when all you could do was hope?

CLOSING PRAYER

The Dynamic Catholic Prayer

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hope when I am discouraged,
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Teach me to enjoy uncertainty and lead your Church
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for the people of our times.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The reading assignment for our next gathering is pages 96–115.
- No matter how long it has been, we encourage you to go to Reconciliation this week.
- If you want a simple and powerful way to share the Catholic faith with other people, we encourage you to visit DynamicCatholic.com/FindHope and get copies of *Beautiful Hope* to share.
- Our next gathering will be . . . (date, place, and time).

SESSION SIX

BECOMING HOPE

Reading: Pages 96-115

OPENING PRAYER:

Loving Father,
Open our hearts and minds
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and wisdom to live all the good things
we explore here together.
Send your Spirit upon us so that we can discover your dream
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in every moment of our days.
We ask you to bless in a special way the hungry, the lonely,
the sick, and the discouraged. Remind us of our duty toward
them and inspire us to be filled with a profound gratitude.
We ask all this through your Son, Jesus.

Amen.

WATCH VIDEO(S)

Watch Day 22: A Hopeless Mess?

Other recommended video options include:

Day 21: The ABC's of Hope

Day 20: Free to Love

(Visit BestAdventEver.com/ViewVideos to see which videos are available at your group's meeting time.)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Are you showing up to prayer?
2. Do people who meet you leave more hopeful or less?
3. Who can you encourage today?
4. If you wrote your own ABC's of hope, what would you write?
5. How will your story of hope begin?
6. What does it mean to you to be the hands of Jesus?
7. How can you give hope this Christmas?

CLOSING PRAYER

The Dynamic Catholic Prayer

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of your love in the world.
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and clarity in times of decision.
Teach me to enjoy uncertainty and lead your Church
to become all you imagined it would be
for the people of our times.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- If you enjoyed *Beautiful Hope*, the next title we recommend is Matthew Kelly's *Resisting Happiness*. It is a deeply personal, disarmingly transparent look at why we sabotage our own happiness and what to do about it.
- If you participated in Best Advent Ever and want to continue getting daily inspiration, you can visit [DynamicCatholic.com/QuoteADay](https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/QuoteADay) to sign up for Dynamic Catholic's Daily Reflections.
- On behalf of everyone here at Dynamic Catholic, we want to thank you for taking this journey through Advent. We pray that you and your loved ones have a merry and very blessed Christmas!



For more information, please contact:

Dynamic Catholic
5081 Olympic Blvd.
Erlanger, KY 41018

info@DynamicCatholic.com

859-980-7900

DynamicCatholic.com