

## Christmas Hope

### *Hope, Unexpected (12.16.21)*

**S** Scripture  
**O** Observation  
**A** Application  
**P** Prayer



### **Christmas shows that when we least expect it, God shows up.**

- Share a time when someone has unexpectedly shown up for you. How did that make you feel?

#### **Read The Balaam Story in either form:**

- The full story: Numbers 22-24
- The condensed story: Numbers 22:1-6, 23:1-8, 11-13, 18-20, 25-27, 24:1-5, 10-11, 15-17
  - Have you encountered this story before? What is your reaction to it?
  - In what ways did God show up to protect the Israelites?

#### **Read: Numbers 24:17**

- Prophecies in Scripture often have multiple levels. In what ways do you see this verse fulfilled at different times in Scripture?
- How does this verse point to Jesus?

#### **Read: Matthew 2:1-2**

- Even though there are echoes of Numbers 24:17 in the worlds of the Magi, Herod and all of Jerusalem were surprised and troubled that a king had been born in their city. God had shown up unexpectedly.
  - When has God shown up unexpectedly for you?
  - How can you adopt a posture of gratitude in your daily life?

**Prayer:** Pray that God will open your eyes to the ways in which He is unexpectedly at work around you, and thank Him for what he is doing!