

My Hope Box



A Hope Box is a place where you can entrust specific concerns to God, with limitless opportunities to release every aspect of Christmas to the One Whose birthday we're celebrating. Your Hope Box can be a box wrapped in colorful Christmas paper, a plain, unwrapped box—or a tin. After you've selected a box, place it where you'll see and use it—under a Christmas tree, or on a table, kitchen counter, etc. As you consider what to put in your Hope Box, realize it's a practical way to apply the Scripture: *casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you* (1 Peter 5:7, NKJV). Here are a few ideas to begin using your Hope Box:

- ❖ If you're missing family members for various reasons, remind yourself that God understands—He sent His only Son into the world for us. Notice the love in Jesus' voice when He says, *I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life* (John 8:12, NKJV). Write down names or initials of each person you miss; then, pause to thank God that His light and life shine in your darkness. Place your completed paper in your Hope Box, entrusting those you miss—and the love and longing you have for them—to Jehovah El Roi, the God Who Sees.
- ❖ If you feel sad, write down what's triggering your sadness, then remember that Jesus *was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief* (Isaiah 53:3, ESV). He, the Man of Sorrows, understands your needs—and cares for you! Placing that paper in your Hope Box, you can release your sorrows into the tender care of the *Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace* (Isaiah 9:6).
- ❖ Perhaps your life is at a crossroads—between jobs, in a difficult relationship, or uncertain about “next steps.” Write about your need for direction, and then entrust each concern to Jesus, remembering His promise to guide you. *I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep* (John 10:11, ESV). He also is your Vine (John 15:5), and He is able to produce good fruit in your life.
- ❖ Think about other Names of Jesus—such as Messiah (Matthew 2:4), Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29), King of kings and Lord of lords (1 Timothy 6: 15-16), your Great High Priest (Hebrews 4:14), Lion of Judah (Revelation 5:5). Are there other concerns, fears, or worries you want to place in your Hope Box, releasing them to God as an act of faith?

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6, NKJV