



Next

Part 1 – When Hope Seems Lost Discussion Guide

We all have hopes and dreams. Sometimes, they are more like wishes than a confident hope or an inspired dream. Let's focus on real hope this week. Who do we base that hope on and how do we sustain it?

Jump Start

Leader: This section is designed to get discussions started, examine God's truth, and apply it to our week.

1. Back to your earliest memories, what did you hope/wish for? In whom did you put your hope, expecting this thing to come about?
2. This week's message is about something that happened immediately after Jesus was resurrected, on that original Easter morning! Read the whole story in context. **Read [Luke 24:13-36](#)**. What is the one part of the story that seems most important to you?
3. **Read [Romans 15:13](#)**. Do you struggle with hope? What is this verse saying? What does God need to do for us? So that what will happen? Why must our hope be anchored in eternity and not in this life alone?
4. In the middle of our struggle, we can try to find hope, or beg God, or try to understand. But to find hope and peace, we need to let go of our control. **Read [Proverbs 3:5-6](#)**. What three things do you need to do? What then is God's response or responsibility?

Current Prayer Focus—What we're praying for together as a church:

- For the pain people are feeling due to loss. For Cove families experiencing death and grief.
- Peace in place of anxiety.
- Provision for people; finances and ability to go back to work. Pray for the millions laid off.

Deeper

5. We have established that as we dedicate ourselves to a lifestyle of following Christ, learning to follow Him becomes a part of who we are rather than actions we perform. We are only really learning to be in relationship. What, then, are some traits of a person learning a lifestyle of following Jesus? What is the difference between a believer and a disciple? **Read [John 13:13-17](#), [John 13:34-35](#), [Acts 8:9-13](#), and [John 15:1-5](#).**

6. There are many prophecies about the coming Messiah, which Jesus fulfilled. He explained them to His followers on the road to Emmaus. Do you know them? Just a few of the most obvious prophecies are listed below. Read them and jot down your thoughts. If you don't know them, or you don't know if they were fulfilled, look up the cross-reference in your Bible or Bible app to see the details. Record the New Testament verses that tell of their completion.
 - a. [Psalm 16:10](#)
 - b. [Psalm 22:1, 7-8, 14-15, 18](#)
 - c. [Isaiah 61:1-2](#)
 - d. [Isaiah 53:4-6,11](#)
 - e. [Zechariah 9:9](#)
 - f. [Micah 5:2](#)
 - g. [Isaiah 7:14](#)