



Hebrews – This Hope
Pastor Hilary Harris 07.9.2023

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

[Hebrews 6:11-15, 17-20, NIV]

¹¹ We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. ¹² We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised. ¹³ For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, ¹⁴ saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." ¹⁵ And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise. ¹⁷ Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. ¹⁸ God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us ¹⁹ We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain,) ²⁰ where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.

“This hope”:

1. Is not temporary, but eternal

[1 Corinthians 13:13, NLT]

Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.

“This hope”:

2. Is His plan for you

[Jeremiah 29:11, NIV]

For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

“This hope”:

3. Does not disappoint

[Romans 5:,5 NLT]

And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

“This hope”:

4. A steady anchor that brings us into His presence. (Hebrews 6:19)

HOPE = A confident, joyful expectation of a better future based on the character and faithfulness of the one in whom hope is placed.

“Disillusioned”: disappointed in someone or something that one discovers to be less good than one had believed.

[1 Corinthians 13:12, ESV]

For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

***"One day it will be clear. And if I could explain Him then He wouldn't be God. And I don't need a lot of answers, I need an all-powerful God."
- C.S. Lewis from "Till We Have Faces."***

[Hebrews 6:13-15, ESV]

¹³ For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, ¹⁴ saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." ¹⁵ And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise.

[Romans 4:18-21, ESV]

¹⁸ In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be." ¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰ No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

Greek , "Elpis": the basis of hope; the author of hope, or he who is its foundation.

[Hebrews 6:11-12, NIV]

¹¹ We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. ¹² We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

How do we hold fast to hope?

1. Imitate those who have gone before you

How do we hold fast to hope?

2. Run for Refuge

[Hebrews 6:18, NIV]

God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us

[Psalm 9:9, NIV]

The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.

[Psalm 46:1, KJV]

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

[Psalm 46:7, KJV]

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

[Prov 18:10, ESV]

The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous runs into it and is safe.

How do we hold fast to hope?

3. Follow the Forerunner

[Hebrews 6:19-20, NIV]

¹⁹ We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, ²⁰ where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.

[2 Corinthians 4:8-9, 16-18, NIV]

⁸ We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. ¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Key Points:

How do we hold fast to hope?

1. Imitate those who have gone before you
2. Run for Refuge
3. Follow the Forerunner

Applications for the Week:

This week hold onto hope through clinging to God's promises in the Bible, receive encouragement from believers, and taking time to worship and fix your eyes on Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. Can you recall a time when your expectations were not met? How did that make you feel?
2. How can unmet expectations create hopelessness?
3. What happens if hopelessness settles in?
4. How do we hold fast to the hope set before us?
5. What does that look like practically for you?
6. How does having an eternal perspective adjust how we face challenging times?
7. Share a time when you made Jesus the anchor of your soul during a difficult time. What do you experience?