



HOPE—Easter 2020
Pastor Dave Patterson
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USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

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.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is not to get through the questions, but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

Definition:

HOPE = A confident expectation that something better is coming, based on facts and reality

Definition:

LIVING HOPE/ETERNAL HOPE = A confident expectation that something better is coming, based on what God has promised

[1 Corinthians 15:13-22]

For if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless. And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world.

[1 Corinthians 15:20]

But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead!

[1 Peter 1:3-4, NIV]

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.

[Psalm 69:21, 1015 BC]

“They also gave me gall for my food, and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.”

[John 14:1-3, NLT]

“Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. ² There is more than enough room in my Father’s home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? ³ When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.

[1 Thessalonians 4:15-17, NLT]

We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have

died will rise from their graves. ¹⁷ Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever.

[1 John 4:10]

This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

[Romans 3:23-25]

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. ²⁴ Yet God, with undeserved kindness, declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. ²⁵ For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood.

[Romans 10:9-10, NLT]

If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.

FOR MONDAY—

1. Set your eyes on our Living Hope—Reflect on what Jesus has resurrected in your life.
2. Pray with great expectation for what you personally believe lies ahead.

TALK IT THROUGH

1. What kinds of hope do people have? How have you seen “common hope” expressed all-around you?
2. What is “eternal hope” based upon? What does it look like to live with this kind of hope?
3. How does fulfilled prophecy about the Savior influence your faith in what is to come? In what ways does the fact of Jesus’ resurrection give you personal hope today? [1 Peter 1.3-4]
4. With all the shaking going on around you, what level of hope and certainty can you testify to? How can you help others who are far from God experience the highest level of hope?
5. How does the promise from John 14.1-3 of a “place prepared for us” give us hope for our eternal future?
6. Pray that Jesus would open the eyes of those around us to an eternal hope.