

“The Importance of HOPE”

A Personal or Small Group Experience

I think I see the importance of HOPE when I witness the loss of HOPE! Take a few minutes and discuss around the room the importance of HOPE for life –with a greater sense of HOPE there is a greater sense of LIFE! Discuss how HOPE relates to your feeling of being alive! Talk about when you lost hope in a relationship, possibility etc. Is it fair to say that HOPE and our experience LIFE are intimately connected?

It seems to be a shorter journey to restore a weakened hope than to resurrect it from the dead. Sometimes though (*more often by the way than I am comfortable with— but then God typically doesn't conform to my comforts*) God seems to allow hope to die—before He brings resurrection. Perhaps there is something to this. Maybe He knows that the HOPE we have at times is not based on a solid enough foundation. Possibly it takes a “loss” of our hope to put us on a solid foundation—a resurrection of HOPE in us - a new LIFE!

As you read the story of the raising of Lazarus (**John 11:1-45**) contemplate it from a HOPE perspective. As you listen to the actions and dialogue of those involved discuss them in light of this statement: “Jesus allows HOPE to die for Mary and Martha so that He could resurrect a new HOPE for them.”

Then go to one of my favorite passages about HOPE and LIFE! This passage links the RESURRECTION of Jesus to HOPE and how HOPE is essential for daily LIFE!

READ 1 Peter 1:3—9

It is not a lot of verses but they are packed with HOPE and LIFE!

What is the basis of HOPE?

What is the role of “rejoicing” in the HOPE-filled life?

What can be our HOPE perspective when facing challenges and trouble?

Mine these verses for everything they hold! Receive HIM and all He has for you!

“I Am....”

The Resurrection and the Life

“Connecting With God” Weekly Guide

This booklet is a resource to help you “Connect with God” this week. He deeply desires ongoing personal connection with you. You are that important to Him.

This Page has some scripture verses for you to meditate on each day this week. Notice the helpful hints section – these are great things to consider when personally engaging with God through His Word.

The Center Pages contain the notes and outline for the message given on Sunday. The message is also available as an audio download from www.pointofgracechurch.org

The Back Page has a study written specifically for a small group of people (or an individual) to drill down deeper into a particular aspect of the week’s theme. Small groups can review memorable points of the week’s message and then work through the study concluding with a time of prayer.

Scripture & Meditation Guide - April 4-9

Helpful Hints:

- 1) Find a quiet place along with 15-20 minutes!
- 2) Focus on God for a few moments asking His Spirit to speak to your heart!
- 3) Listen to Him by reading a section of scripture then rereading it several times, dwelling on “words and phrases” which grab your heart’s attention. Ask God, “What do You want me to hear?” “Why this word at this time?” “How are You inviting me to respond?”
- 4) Pray everything that is on your heart and mind as you are ready!
Worship Him, Bless Him, Thank Him, Ask Him, Trust Him

Monday: I Peter 1:3-9

Tuesday: I Peter 1:13-16

Wednesday: I Peter 2:9-12

Thursday: I Peter 3:13-18

Friday: I Peter 4:12-16

Saturday: I Peter 5:5-11