

It Matters
“Why Hope Matters”

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“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people.” Ephesians 1:18 (NIV)

1. In Hope We Find _____

- In God we find rest _____

Then Jesus said to them, “The Sabbath was made to meet the needs of people, and not people to meet the requirements of the Sabbath.” Mark 2:27 (NLT)

- In God we find rest _____

Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Matthew 11:28-29 (NLT)

2. In Hope We Find _____

- When we trust God He replaces _____ with _____

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13 (NIV)

3. In Hope We Experience _____

- Suffering grows our _____

“We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment...” Romans 5:3-5 (NLT)

- Suffering develops a _____ upon God

*“We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us.”
2 Corinthians 1:8-10 (NIV)*

4. In Hope We Find _____

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“We put our hope in the Lord. He is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.” Psalm 33:20-21 (NLT)

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1 (NIV)

5. In Hope We Find _____

- God is all _____

“How great is our Lord! His power is absolute! His understanding is beyond comprehension!” Psalm 147:5 (NLT)

- God is all _____

“Is anything too hard for the Lord...?” Genesis 18:14 (NLT)

- God is _____

*“I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence!
If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there.
If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans,
even there your hand will guide me, and your strength will support me.
I could ask the darkness to hide me and the light around me to become night—
but even in darkness I cannot hide from you. To you the night shines as bright as day.
Darkness and light are the same to you.” Psalm 139:7-12 (NLT)*

Discussion Questions

1. Discuss some of your hopes with one another. What do you hope for? What is the difference between hope *for* something and hoping *in* something or someone?
- 2.
3. Read Mark 2:27. Discuss the importance of setting aside a day of rest each week. How easy or difficult is that for you to obey?
4. On a scale of 1-10 rate your joy level. What are some ways you can discover more joy in your life? How does hope affect our joy?
5. Read Romans 5:3-5. In this passage we see a progression that leads to hope. Have you experienced this? Share a time when you have seen this take place in your life.
6. How can you discover courage in Jesus? How does remembering that Jesus is always with us help us when we fear?
7. Discuss the three attributes of God given in point 5. How does knowing God’s attributes and character give us security?
8. Read Ephesians 1:18. What can you do this week to grow in your understanding of the hope God has called you into?

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