



The Expression of Our Hope

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WHAT IS
SOMETHING
YOU'RE
REALLY
LOOKING
FORWARD TO?

The POINT >

Our hope in Christ changes how we view the world and live in it.

> 1 PETER 1:13-25

¹³Therefore, with your minds ready for action, be sober-minded and set your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹⁴As obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires of your former ignorance. ¹⁵But as the one who called you is holy, you also are to be holy in all your conduct; ¹⁶for it is written, Be holy, because I am holy. ¹⁷If you appeal to the Father who judges impartially according to each one's work, you are to conduct yourselves in reverence during your time living as strangers. ¹⁸For you know that you were redeemed from your empty way of life inherited from your fathers, not with perishable things like silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of an unblemished and spotless lamb.

²⁰He was foreknown before the foundation of the world

but was revealed in these last times for you. ²¹Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. ²²Since you have purified yourselves by your obedience to the truth, so that you show sincere brotherly love for each other, from a pure heart love one another constantly, ²³because you have been born again—not of perishable seed but of imperishable—through the living and enduring word of God. ²⁴For All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like a flower of the grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, ²⁵but the word of the Lord endures forever. And this word is the gospel that was proclaimed to you.



THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

FACT:

If you want to keep a toned physique for life, nursing may be a good field for you. During every shift, nurses walk an average of 5 miles.¹



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // JESUS

Jesus lived for the glory of the Father and taught that we should do the same through lives of worship, service, and sacrifice.

Nothing in this life is guaranteed. Let's say, for instance, you want to be a nurse. All it takes is working hard to make good grades, getting your prerequisite college classes under your belt, applying for nursing school, and doing your clinicals, and in four short years, you're off and running with the job of your dreams. Flexible schedule. A sense of meaning because you're helping people. And, not to mention, the good pay.

We're often tempted to root our hope in things like this. However, our plans can break down in an instant. I had a friend in college who was on this very track. But during her freshman year, a man broke into her apartment and attacked her. She began dealing with crippling anxiety and depression, and before long, she couldn't find it within herself to go to class. She didn't return to school for her sophomore year, and she found that her hopes weren't as sure as she'd thought.

Nothing in this life provides the hope for a certain future that we desire. However, there is one source of hope that will never disappoint. Through faith in Jesus, we can know for sure what eternity holds for us.

1 PETER 1:13-16

1 How are Christians often tempted to conform to the culture of this world?

2 How can we make sure we keep our minds ready for action?



1 PETER 1:22-25

6 Why does God's Word place so much emphasis on loving one another?

1 PETER 1:17-21

3 How can we live as strangers in this world without being isolated from the people of this world?

4 What's the evidence that Jesus has redeemed different aspects of your life?

5 How does the reality of redemption change the way we see the world and live in it?

7 What are the challenges and benefits of loving others sincerely and consistently?

8 How have you experienced the power of God's Word in remaining pure in this world?

It is impossible to love God's truth and hate another person. #BSFLHope





LIVE IT OUT

LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // JESUS

Jesus lived for the glory of the Father and taught that we should do the same through lives of worship, service, and sacrifice.

Jesus was tempted in all the ways we are, yet He was never distracted from the purpose God had for Him. We should view the world the same way Jesus did—we're called to serve others, even sacrificially, in order that God would be glorified in our lives. When we follow Jesus in the way He lived, we can have confidence that we will share in Jesus' eternal inheritance.

> CHRIST

Our ultimate hope for a good future is found in Jesus. Yet sometimes, we're still tempted to find our hope in the things of this world.

9 Where have you misplaced your hope?

GOD

JESUS

HOLY SPIRIT

BIBLE

SALVATION

CREATION

CHURCH

PEOPLE

FAMILY

COMMUNITY
& WORLD

Confess these to God. Ask God to help you to trust in Him alone for your future.



> COMMUNITY

When things inevitably don't turn out as we'd hoped, it can be easy to get frustrated and discouraged or even be tempted to give up. Thankfully, we have friends beside us to offer encouragement and to help us overcome a sense of hopelessness.

10 Who do you know who's a Christian, but may be struggling with remaining hopeful about the future?

11 This week, help them to understand how the promises of God relate to their future. If it's you who is struggling, share with a trusted friend or leader. Ask them to pray and help you remain encouraged as you walk forward in pursuing Jesus.

> CULTURE

To know the true hope available in Christ, we must be no longer conformed to the world, but have a renewed perspective on life.

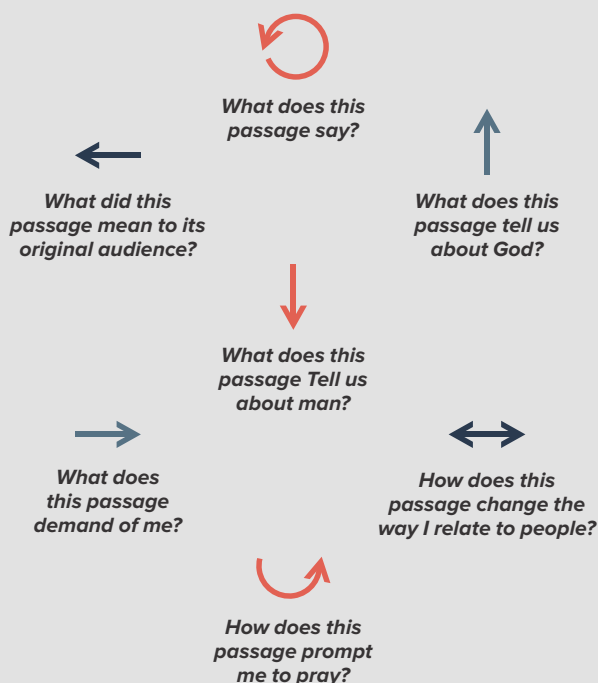
12 When have you seen a non-Christian friend's hope fail them?

13 Who do you know who's placing their hopes in all the wrong places? How will you help them understand the future Jesus has promised to those who trust in Him?

DAILY DEVOTIONS



The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



Day One **JOHN 13:34a**

Jesus had been with His disciples for three years, and this was the night He'd been moving toward the whole time. Jesus had just enjoyed the last supper with those closest to Him, and in a few short hours, He'd be arrested, put on trial, and hung on the cross. In this in-between time, He announced that He'd be leaving and spoke a few final important thoughts to the disciples about the ways they should live after He'd gone. For generations, the Jews had followed the law as their way to live in God's favor, but Jesus had demonstrated through His life that simply obeying the law wasn't enough. On this final night before He'd give His life on the cross, Jesus communicated to His followers that they needed to understand this principle. It wasn't enough to follow the law—they needed to understand there was a new and different standard.

➤ **When have you been tempted to believe that by being "good," you earned God's favor?**

➤ **Why is it sometimes difficult for us to accept ideas that are different than we previously thought?**

Day Two

JOHN 13:34b



Galatians 5:14 teaches that “the whole law is fulfilled in one statement: Love your neighbor as yourself.” The *whole* law, all 613 commands. There are 248 positive commands—things like pray to God and read the Shema morning and evening. There are 365 negative commands, such as don’t lie and don’t carve an image that represents God. For a person to live in God’s favor, he’d have to keep every command perfectly. This is absolutely impossible, yet Jesus taught that the spirit of the law all along was to teach us to love God and others. The new command Jesus gave His followers was this—we are to choose moment by moment to show love to one another with all we do and say. This fulfills all the law.

➤ **How do you see that loving others fulfills all the Old Testament commands?**

➤ **List some specific ways you can show love to others this week.**

Day Three

JOHN 13:34c

It’s one thing to love others, but it’s a different thing altogether to love as Jesus did. Let’s ask ourselves, how did Jesus love? First, He was willing to leave heaven and come to earth, which was a pretty big inconvenience, to say the least. He was willing to go through this life with no place to lay His head. He set aside the things He may have wanted personally in order to continually serve others. And ultimately, Jesus was willing to face rejection, persecution, suffering, and death. He did all of these things because of the love He had for people who had rebelled against God. To love others this way seems impossible. In fact, it is impossible. Yet this is exactly what God has called us to. Thankfully, though we could never accomplish it ourselves, through the Spirit’s working to transform our hearts, God can use us as an expression of His love for the people around us.

➤ **How would you describe the love of Jesus?**

➤ **Why is it difficult to love like this? Pray that God would help you love others like Jesus.**

Day Four

JOHN 13:35a

Churches are made up of imperfect people, and we often bring our weaknesses into the ways we relate to one another. Many people in churches all across America have experienced frustrations, conflict, others being unkind, and many other expressions of our desperate imperfections. The truth is that there should be no place for these things in the church, but because we're imperfect people, we'll always face these issues. The mark of true disciples isn't perfection; it's dealing with our own sins and imperfections in a loving way. Too many times, when people are hurt by others, they check out and walk away. This isn't love. The world sees the difference Christ makes in our lives when we love one another, especially when it's not easy.

- **When have you been upset by something that happened in the church?**
- **How can you deal with these things in a loving and gracious manner?**

Day Five

JOHN 13:35b



"If" is a big word. It means we have a choice. It means that, although Jesus has commanded something, whether or not it actually happens depends on us. God's desire for His people has been the same since the beginning of creation. We've been called to love one another as a reflection of God's character. To teach us how to live this way, God gave us the law and spoke through the prophets, and ultimately, He sent Jesus. It's now our responsibility to live out the things to which He's called us as an expression of our love for God and others. Every day, how will you choose to answer the "if"? Let's choose love!

- **What are the implications of your choosing love vs. disobedience?**
- **How has God shown His love for you?**