

# “How to Hope More in God”

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## INTRODUCTION

When we survey the world around us we find many who have no hope. Apart from God, hope is little more than wishing or desiring. But for those who trust in God, hope is a vital part of their faith. In this study we look to God’s word to understand this kind of hope and to increase our hope in God.

### Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)

What is one thing you hope to see happen in your lifetime?

## STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

### Basics of Hope

#### Q1. Read Romans 8:24-25, 2 Corinthians 3:12

The original Greek word used for hope in these passages is *elpis* which means a confident expectation. What are the attitudes in Romans 8:25, and 2 Corinthians 3:12 that naturally result from having a positive expectation based in God? What difference would it make in your attitude if your hope were based on your performance rather than God’s power?

#### Q2 Read 1 Peter 1:3-6, 1 Timothy 4:10

The greatest reason for our hope comes from the promise of eternal life in Christ. What are some ways God demonstrated His great power in 1 Peter 1:3-6? In 1 Timothy 4:10 Paul refers to laboring and striving. When laboring and striving discourage you, what do you do to renew your hope in God?

### Investigate God’s Promises

#### Q3. Read Romans 15:4, 1 John 2:25, Philippians 1:6

One way we can increase our hope in God is to investigate His promises. How does the Apostle Paul connect hope with God’s Word in Romans 15:4? Consider the promises given in 1 John 2:25, and Philippians 1:6. What are some situations in which these verses would be most helpful in increasing your hope? Share with your group any verses that you have found particularly helpful in sustaining your hope.

### Interrupt your False Hopes

#### Q4. Read Job 8:13-15, Psalm 33:17, 1 Timothy 6:17

What happens when hope is misplaced according to Job 8:13-15? In Psalm 33:17 and 1 Timothy 6:17 we see two examples of misplaced hope. What

are some of the most common things we place our hope in other than God?

## Identify God’s Faithfulness

### Q5. Read Romans 4:18, 2 Corinthians 1:10

There will be times when hope seems to defy reason. It is only God’s character, and His faithfulness, which enables us to hold fast to our hope in Him. Before his statement of hope in 2 Corinthians 1:10, Paul declared what about God? It is important to remember and declare God’s faithfulness to increase our own hope, and the hope of others. Share with your group some of the ways God has shown himself faithful in your life.

## WRAP-UP

Our hope is not like the hope of the world, it is a powerful, positive expectation placed on the living God. To help us increase our hope we can investigate God’s promises to us in His word, interrupt our false hopes in anything other than Him and identify God’s faithfulness demonstrated to us and others.

## Memory Verse

*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...*

*Ephesians 1:18a NIV*

## PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: \_\_\_\_\_

Pray for your group members’ needs: (see back for more space) \_\_\_\_\_

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*Challenge:* Ask God to help you identify false sources of hope in your life. Ask him to help you keep your eyes on him alone for hope!

### Q1

Romans 8:24-25 ESV - 24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

2 Corinthians 3:12 ESV - 12 Since we have such a hope, we are very bold,

### Q2.

1 Peter 1:3-6 NIV - 3 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. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Timothy 4:10 NIV - 10 That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe.

### Q3.

Romans 15:4 NIV - 4 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

1 John 2:25 NIV - 25 And this is what he promised us--eternal life.

Philippians 1:6 NIV - 6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

### Q4.

Job 8:13-15 NIV - 13 Such is the destiny of all who forget God; so perishes the hope of the godless. 14 What they trust in is fragile; what they rely on is a spider's web. 15 They lean on the web, but it gives way; they cling to it, but it does not hold.

Psalms 33:17 NIV - 17 A horse is a vain hope for deliverance; despite all its great strength it cannot save.

1 Timothy 6:17 NIV - 17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

### Q5

Romans 4:18 NIV - 18 Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

2 Corinthians 1:10 NIV - 10 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,

Prayer requests can't \_\_\_\_\_

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