

## Pray Together

**Use the first few minutes of your time together to lead your group in a focused prayer time.**

- **Praise:** Spend time praising God for who He is.
- **Repent:** Take a few moments to silently confess any sin that is lingering in your heart.
- **Ask:** Verbalize your needs and the needs of others to God.
- **Yield:** Surrender your will to God.

## Read Together

In many ways the verb “hope” is being robbed of its wonder. We tend to trivialize it in our modern conversations. “I *hope* it doesn’t rain.” “I *hope* we get a good seat.” “I *hope* we get to hear that one song.” “I *hope* they haven’t ran out of pepperoni on the buffet.” “I *really hope* we don’t see *you-know-who*.”

And yet, this same word that we use in light conversation, is used throughout Scripture to communicate tremendous theological truths and great personal responsibilities.

- “In [Jesus’] name the Gentiles will *hope*.” (Matthew 12:21)
- “For in this *hope* we were saved.” (Romans 8:24)
- “If in Christ we have *hope* in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.” (1 Corinthians 15:19-20)
- “Now faith is the assurance of things *hoped* for, the conviction of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1)
- “Set your *hope* fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 1:13)

Hope: waiting, expecting, and longing for the salvation of Christ with joy and full confidence.

Scripture teaches as we become new creations in Christ, there are new expectations, responsibilities, and standards of living. We are called to a unique way of life that is holy. “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” (1 Peter 1:16) How does our hope in Christ drive our obedience toward holiness? And what does that even look like in our modern context? Let’s explore that more in 1 Peter 1.

## Discuss Together

**Use these questions to engage in an informative and impactful discussion.**

- There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. What moves a holy God to forgive sins? How is it possible for a just and holy God to declare sinners righteous? Identify specific passages of Scripture to support your answers.
- Salvation is a work of God’s grace. Read 1 Peter 1:3-5. Identify God’s activity in obtaining and securing eternal redemption for mankind. As you begin to understand what God has accomplished, what assurances are there for those who have been born again to a living hope?



- Only the grace of God can bring mankind into God's holy fellowship. To receive that grace, an active response of repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is required. Have you received God's grace through Jesus Christ? How would you discuss the responses of repentance and faith to someone who is far from God? Have you had the opportunity to share this message with someone who is far from God? Discuss this experience.
- Read 1 Peter 1:13-25. God outlines a lifestyle of obedience for those who have been born again to a living hope. According to Peter, this lifestyle of obedient hope is marked by four active pursuits. How does a 21st Century disciple honor Christ by the pursuing these actions?
  - Set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ (1:13)
  - Do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but be holy (1:14-16)
  - Conduct yourselves with fear (1:17-21)
  - Love one another earnestly from a pure heart (1:22-25)
- Having a right understanding of God is essential for understanding His salvation and our response to His grace. Our response is most easily seen in our outward actions—often the things we do or don't do, or to use a more biblical description, the things we put off and the things we put on—but what about the inward posture of your heart? Our public actions may not always align with the position of our hearts and minds. How does the hope of Christ prepare our minds for action when we face:
 

- Celebration and joy?	- Discipline?
- Suffering and trials?	- Uncertainty?
- Waiting?	- Clarity?
- Providence?	- Mourning and grief?
- How do faith and hope relate to one another?

## Do Life Together

**These questions are designed to be asked in a smaller group of 2-4 people. The smaller setting will provide better opportunity for authentic responses. In your smaller group time, take notes to help others remain accountable to their answers. Grow together!**

- How is God calling you to “grow up” in Christ this week?
- How can Jesus redeem this area? How has Jesus proven that in Scripture?
- Who will keep you accountable to this commitment this week?

## Pray Together

**Pray through Hebrews 11:13-16.**



Warren Baptist Church or Warren Grovetown



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