

Picking Up Our Hope



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,
and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.

1 Peter 1:3-4

Key Question: What "secrets of the kingdom of God" does Jesus want us to have and to understand?

During this series we will be seeking to understand these secrets by looking at the following...

- 1) The writer, the situation, and their encounter with Jesus. (OBSERVE)
- 2) How these personal experiences created a hunger and thirst to know God and His purpose for them. (REFLECT)
- 3) What is necessary to "see & hear" God's hopes for us in today's world. (RESPOND)

*"If God can bring blessing from the broken body of Jesus
and glory from something that's as obscene as the cross,
He can bring blessing from my problems and my pain
and my unanswered prayer.
I just have to trust Him."*

Anne Graham Lotz

READ & REFLECT & RESPOND: What Does God Want Us To See?

Matthew 16:21-28 - Jesus calls us to join him in His kingdom focus.

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"

Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.



Q: What is Jesus asking of those who want to follow Him?

John 20:11-18 – Jesus breaks the power of sin & death!

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

Q: How does Jesus rising from the dead radically change our lives?



John 21:15-19 – Jesus restores a relationship with us!

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?"

"Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"

(note back)

Q: Why does Jesus want to restore a relationship with us?

Q: How does Jesus restore our broken relationship with Him?

"The work of restoration cannot begin until a problem is fully faced."

Dan B. Allender, Bold Love

"Hope waits but does not sit. It strains with eager anticipation to see what may be coming on the horizon. Hope does not pacify; it does not make us docile and mediocre. Instead, it draws us to greater risk and perseverance". Allender

WEEKLY STUDY CHALLENGE

A. Read WEEK 5 (pgs. 351-408) of **"The Books of the Bible."**

If you prefer, you can download the CBE app, add the CBE readings to the YouVersion Bible app, or listen to it via audio. For all of these resources, go to: <http://cbe.covchurch.org/resources/>



Community



Bible Experience
Reading the New Testament together

B. As you do your readings, consider these 5 questions...

(which will be discussed in various small groups each week)

- 1. What's something you noticed for the first time?**
- 2. What questions did you have?**
- 3. Was there anything that bothered you?**
- 4. What did you learn about loving God?**
- 5. What did you learn about loving others?**