



The Week of April 4, 2021
Where Is My Hope?
Conversation Guide

This Week's Take-Aways

- **About Salvation-** (Ephesians 2:1-10) Salvation is an act of God's grace, not of our works. God offers redemption of anyone who accepts Jesus as Lord and Savior. They become new persons in Christ, have their sins forgiven by God, are set apart to live for God's purposes and anticipate eternity in heaven with God.

Intro Questions

- Easter isn't all about the bunny! What does Easter mean to you?
- One of the things pastor David talked about in the message was the "Prize egg." What have you seen as a prize egg that came out of 2020?
- He also said "Nothing sources hope like the resurrection." What does that mean to you?
- Where are you currently sourcing your hope from? Does it work?

The Source of Hope

- Read Matthew 28:1-10

Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb. Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint. Then the angel spoke to the women. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember what I have told you." The women ran quickly from the tomb. They were very frightened but also filled with great joy, and they rushed to give the disciples the angel's message. And as they went, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they ran to him, grasped his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid! Go tell my brothers to leave for Galilee, and they will see me there."

- How did Mary Magdalene and the other Mary respond?
 - If you have time, what were the responses of the following people? Thomas (John 20:24-29), the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-34), Peter before the Sanhedrin (Acts 4:1-22).
- What happened between Jesus' death and His ascension back into heaven? (Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-8)

I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him.

- What does the resurrection have to do with hope? How do we see that in the early church?

- Read 1 Peter 1:3-5

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.

- What is the "great expectation" and "priceless inheritance" that believers have?
- What does it mean to live with great expectation?
- What allows us to live with great expectation?

- Read Galatians 2:20

My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

- Why does it take a complete transformation from the person you were before Christ to the new person you are rather than just good works?

Next Steps

- David listed these three things we call hope that really aren't

- Wishful Thinking- Have you been let down by wishful thinking?
- Positive Thinking- Have you fallen prey to the power of positive thinking?
- Dreams, Goals & Ambitions- How do we move beyond just setting goals and pinning our happiness on our accomplishments?

- Read Hebrews 6:18-19

So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us. This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God's inner sanctuary.

- What does this passage tell you about the nature of the hope we have?

- Read Romans 10:9-13

If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced." Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

- Have you declared Jesus is your Lord and do you believe in your heart He was raised from dead?
- If you have questions, take some time to talk to your group leader or call the church office to speak to a member of our staff.