

Easter Sunday
Jesus Our Living Hope
Sunday, April 4th, 2021

1 Peter 1: 3-9 NIV

³Praise 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, ⁴and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

1. HOPE is Alive!

Matthew 28: 5-7 He is risen just as He said.

John 20:11-16 Mary wept at the tomb. "Woman why are you crying?"

Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and cried out, "Rabboni!"

Luke 24: 36-39 Jesus said to them "Peace be with you. Why do doubts rise in your mind? Touch Me and see."

2. HOPE Saves

1 Corinthians 15: 2-4 By this Gospel you are saved.

1 Peter 3:18 Christ suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous.

1 Corinthians 15: 20-22 For in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

1 Corinthians 1:18 the message of the cross to those being saved is the power of God.

3. HOPE Empowers

Colossians 1:27 The glorious riches of this mystery-Christ in you, the HOPE of glory.

Conclusion: Our Savior is very much alive and will reign for eternity! His death and resurrection have brought salvation, new life and divine empowerment to those who believe. *Christ lives in us!*
Christ is the HOPE of glory!

LIFE GROUP LESSON
Jesus Our Living Hope
Week of April 4 – April 10th, 2021

Ice Breaker: What does Jesus as your Living Hope mean for you?

Read 1 Peter 1: 3-9

1. What has God given us? (vs.3-4) Through whom?
2. What does it mean God has given us a new birth?
3. What is our inheritance? (v.4) Where is it kept?
4. How are we shielded/protected by God's power? (v.5)
5. What are we told to do in this life? How we live? (v.6)
6. How are we to view the trials we face? (v.7)
7. What do we learn in our trials? What is proven? (v.7)
8. Why would God want to test our faith?
9. How do we believe in and love someone we cannot see? (v.8)
10. As we open our hearts to Jesus and receive His love, what do we receive? (v.9)
11. Have you felt inexpressible joy that you can't relate to any other source but Jesus? (v.8)
12. Can you feel His joy flowing in you in the midst of great trials?
13. Is it OK to choose to feel joy even in our times of pain? Why?
14. Do we have any good reason to doubt who Jesus is and what He offers us? *Have you at some point?* Why?
15. Read 1 Corinthians 1:18. What does it mean, the message of the cross is the power of God to those who are being saved?
16. Read Colossians 1:27. What is the mystery revealed?
17. What does this revealed mystery tell you about what God desires for you and all humanity? Will you treasure this gift?
18. How can you more fully look to Jesus as your Living Hope in every situation? In what areas of your life do you need to turn to Him, your Hope, and draw from His power and wisdom?

Point to ponder: Jesus is not someone from an old Bible story or a distant god who is unapproachable.. He is our Living Hope, Immanuel-God With Us- and resides in our heart. He is our source of life, truth, power and light to guide our path. Let us stop doubting. Let us stop living in our own power and reasoning, for that is not living by faith in all that Jesus did and is. Let us instead tune to the Living Hope within and let the power of Jesus fill us and freely flow through us.