



That day a man named Simeon, a Jerusalem resident, was in the Temple. He was a good man, very devout, filled with the Holy Spirit and constantly expecting the Messiah to come soon. For the Holy Spirit had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen him—God’s anointed King. The Holy Spirit had impelled him to go to the Temple that day; and so, when Mary and Joseph arrived to present the baby Jesus to the Lord in obedience to the law, Simeon was there and took the child in his arms, praising God. “Lord,” he said, “now I can die content! For I have seen him as you promised me I would. I have seen the Savior you have given to the world. He is the Light that will shine upon the nations, and he will be the glory of your people Israel!” Luke 2:25-32 (TLB)

### **Biblical Hope:**

**Hope is:** A Confident expectation based on God and his promises.

God is faithful and reliable. 1 John 1:9 (GWT)

We must continue to hold firmly to our declaration of faith. The one who made the promise is faithful. Hebrews. 10:23 (GWT)

If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful because he cannot be untrue to himself. 2 Tim 2:13 (GWT)

### **Biblical Hope means:**

- We can’t put our hope in things and expect them to be reliable.

Our Hope is a by-product of:

- Our understanding of God’s character.

God is not a man, so he does not lie. He is not human, so he does not change his mind. Has he ever spoken and failed to act, Has he ever promised and not carried it through? Numbers 23:19 (NLT)

- Our grasp of God’s promises.

When God wanted to guarantee his promises, he gave his word, a rock-solid guarantee— God *can’t* break his word. And because his word cannot change, the promise is likewise unchangeable. We who have run for our very lives to God have every reason to grab the promised hope with both hands and never let go. Hebrews 6:17-18 (MSG)

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. Romans 15:4 (NIV)

May God, the source of hope, fill you with joy and peace through your faith in him. Then you will overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13 (NIV)

So the Lord’s promise came true, just as the prophet has said, “A virgin will have a baby boy, and he will be called Immanuel”... Matthew 1:23 (CEV)

...And his name shall be the hope of all the world.” Matthew 12:21 (NLT)

### **A living Hope means:**

- We can live with confidence.
- We can expect God to come through.
- We can rely on God’s promises.
- We can look forward to the future.

Hope gives us strength for life.

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:31 (NIV)

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### **Application:**

- We need to Look Up!

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:12-13

- We need to Reach Out!

On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many. 2 Corinthians 1:10-11 (NIV)

- We need to Give In.

I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the confident hope to which he has called you... Ephesians 1:18 (NIV)

## **Have Questions? Text them to: (559)464-5754**

Here are some questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

*These questions also work well for personal time with God.*

- Read Luke 2:25-32. How do you think Simeon felt after being hopeful for so long?
- Do you think your hope is from a Webster’s or Biblical definition? What is the difference?
- Why does God’s character and promises give us hope? Is there any specific character qualities and/or promises that give you hope?
- How do you “Look up” to encounter hope?
- Do you “reach out” to others?
- How do we “give in”, and how does this give us hope?

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