



Now these three abide – faith, hope, and love. If Christ be not raised, your faith is in vain, and you are dead in your sin. But since Christ is raised from the dead, He will also raise your body by the power of his spirit. He shall return to make all things right, and we shall live with him forever in glory. We live out of this hope...and we die with this hope.

**These questions are intended to deepen your experience of the message. Use them for your personal or family study time, or with an open Bible as you share the good news with your neighbor.**

**Group Ice-Breaker:**

(1) When have you felt the most “hopeful”?  
When have you felt the least “hopeful”?

(2) Discuss George Frederic Watt’s 1886 painting “Hope.”

**WHAT IS HOPE?** Read 1 Cor 15:19; 1 Thess 4:13; Rom 8:24-25. Is hope more like (1) an unlikely wish when something seems impossible, (2) holding onto one good reason or possibility in bleak circumstances, or (3) a confident assurance based on what you know to be true? All three definitions are debated. Discuss what the NT means by “hope.”

**LIVING OUT OF OUR INHERITANCE.** Read 1 Cor 3:22-23. What we believe about the future is the main thing that determines how we live today. Imagine if you knew you were about to inherit a great estate. How would it affect the decisions you make today? What do Christians believe to be our inheritance? **Follow up:** read Eph 1:18. What does it mean that God’s rich inheritance is “in the saints”?

**HOPE OF RESURRECTION.** Read 1 Cor 15:20-23, Rom 8:23, & 1 Thess 4:14-16. What is “resurrection”? Why does it involve bodies? How is this good news when we experience pain, suffering, or even face death?

**HOPE FOR (HIS) RETURN.** Read 1 Cor 15:24-26 & 1 Thess 4:14-16. What does it mean for Christ to “return”? He will come with judgment (righting every wrong) and rescue. How is this good news when we face injustice in the world?

**HOPE FOR RENEWAL.** Read 1 Cor 15:27-28 & Rom 8:21. Compare the language of “all” things with the language of “creation itself” being liberated. How is this good news when we experience brokenness?

**HOPE FOR REUNION.** Read 1 Cor 15:22 & 1 Thess 4:17. We believe that the dead in Christ will reunite, and we all will be united with the Lord forever. How is this “heavenly union” good news for us when we experience loss?

**THE SPIRIT’S ASSURANCE.** How is the Spirit a present reminder of future hope?