



Hope

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BIG idea

Hoping in the Lord is more than being optimistic. It's a call to action. **Text:** Isaiah 40:31

Dark Times

Isaiah 9:2

The Power of Hope

Hope sustains us **Isaiah 40:31**

» Find new strength

Hope inspires us **Isaiah 40:31**

» Soar like eagles.

Hope calls us to action **Isaiah 40:31**

» Run and not grow weary. Walk and not faint.

The Message of Hope

Isaiah 51:5: "My mercy and justice are coming soon. My salvation is on the way. My strong arm will bring justice to the nations. All distant lands will look to me and wait in hope for my powerful arm."

Luke 2:10: "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David, a Saviour has been to you; he is Christ the Lord."



HOMEchurch

reflection questions

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1. What comes to mind when you think of the word "hope"?
2. Philip Yancey writes about the difference between hope and optimism. He suggests that the difference between optimism and hope is that optimism comes from within. It's an internal positive bent that things will work out. Hope comes from outside of us. It's a deep trust that someone/something else can change things for the better. Optimism waits for good things to happen. Hope encourages us to join in the cause of producing better results. (Philip Yancey in Washington Post article, Dec 25, 2017 - "The Incredible Benefits of Having Hope, not just optimism, this Christmas.")
 - What do you think of this distinction? Agree? Disagree? Why?
3. Read Isaiah 40:27-31. According to these verses, how does a proper understanding of who God is affect our ability to put our trust/hope in him? How does Hebrews 10:23 add to this discussion?
4. According to Romans 5:1-5, how is faith connected with our ability to hope in God? What is the progression of faith to hope? What assurances are we given about the object of our hope?
5. Back to Hebrews 10:23-25. How can hope inspire us to action? How does community help us maintain our hope?

Give it a try! choose one of the following

1. Watch the full length story of Cody Bates: <https://youtu.be/4HDfEsJe-qA>
2. Take some time and ponder the concept of hope in the Lord. Consider how our hope can lead us to acting here and now as we hope for Christ' return.



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