

## Hope in the Darkness

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When we lose control of our circumstances, our hope often begins to drain.

- **Biblical hope is focused on a Person - God Himself.**

Why, my soul are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God. Psalm 42:5

### Tetelestai

When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. John 19:30

### Sin causes a disconnect with God.

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.  
<sup>6</sup>We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:5-6

### What is finished? Sacrifice for sins.

...[Jesus] has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. <sup>28</sup>...Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him. Hebrews 9:26, 28

### It was finished, but it wasn't over.

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. <sup>2</sup>They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup>but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup>While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. <sup>5</sup>...the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" <sup>6</sup>He is not here; he has risen! Luke 24:1-6

Christian hope looks back to the risen Jesus in order to look forward.

## Let's Connect

With extra time at home right now, are there any projects you want to complete?

## Let's Talk About It

After hours of suffering on the cross, Jesus declared, "*It is finished.*" Jesus' work on earth was complete when He suffered and died as a sacrifice for our sins and defeated the enemy once and for all. Our faith and hope rest on the fact that Jesus was resurrected from the dead – He is alive! Because Jesus is alive, we can have great hope – even in the darkness of our current circumstances.

Mark 15:33; Psalm 42:5; John 19:28-30; Genesis 3:15; John 1:29; Isaiah 53:3-6, 10-12; Hebrews 9:26-28

- Which part of the message made an impact, caught your attention or challenged you?
- Read Psalm 42:5. Discuss with your group how biblical hope differs from optimism. How does hoping in God sustain you during this time of crisis?
- Read John 19:28-30 & Isaiah 53:3-6, 10-12. Do you live as if *it is finished*? Have you transferred the weight of your trust from what you do to what Jesus did when He died on the cross? What does it look like to trust in Jesus' sacrifice for sins?
- Read Hebrews 9:26-28. Because of Jesus' love for God and us, he gave himself as a sacrifice to take away our sins. With tensions elevated due to the COVID-19 crisis, what practical thing could you do to love the hard-to-love person in your life better?
- Read Luke 24:1-6. How has the risen Jesus changed your life? Do you see your changed life as a miracle? How might God want to use your story to show and share God's love with others?

## Take a Step

- When you feel afraid, anxious, out of control, or like you're losing hope, remember the risen Christ and take a step to surrender control of your life to Him. Put your hope in God and His faithfulness to do what He alone can do.

## Here's My Prayer

- God, thank you for sending Jesus to die in my place and to pay the price of my sins. Please help me to live with my hope in Christ and fill me with your love and compassion to share this good news about Jesus with others.