





# The Roller Coaster Called **Hope**

## Introduction: The roller coaster called hope...

(Alternate Title: Hope can be a Slippery Slope)

### FOCAL SCRIPTURES:

- Luke 24:13-21
- Psalm 130:5
- Isaiah 30:18
- John 11:33-35

### OUTLINE:

#### Introduction

#### Hope Fades

#### Hope Re-gained

#### Hope Experienced

#### Hope Comes Through Encountering Jesus

### KEY TRUTH:

When we encounter Jesus, His gracious, compassionate care becomes sufficient for the ups and downs of our lives. This intimacy with Christ fills our hope and empowers our love of others.

### NOTES:

### SCRIPTURE:

"but we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel . . ."  
Luke 24:21

Each of us has experienced the ups and downs of hope. Some days we're filled with hope for our future and other days it seems like all hope is lost. Hope, can indeed, feel like a roller coaster.

I hoped to get that job . . .  
*Only to miss out*

I hoped to make the team . . .  
*Only to be let down*

I hoped to get a scholarship . . .  
*Only to receive a letter of rejection*

We hoped to see our kids avoid some of the mistakes  
that other kids are making . . .  
*Only to be heart broken*

We hoped to get pregnant . . .  
*Only to miscarry again*

We hoped the cancer screening would be negative. . .  
*Only to find out the cancer has returned*

**Opportunity** - Pastor, what personal testimony of shattered hope do you feel comfortable sharing with your congregation? Share your story here.

Webster defines hope as, "to cherish a desire with anticipation." There are times when hope seems certain, at other times it seems foolish to cherish any desire with anticipation. Could God have a solution for the ups and downs of hope?





# Hope Is A Person

## Introduction: Hope is a person...

### FOCAL SCRIPTURES:

- John 9:1-36
- Romans 4:18
- Psalms 91:15
- John 14:18
- 1 Samuel 12:22
- Isaiah 42:6

### OUTLINE:

Introduction

We Can Have Hope In Spite of Life Events

We Can Have Hope In Spite of Disappointing Relationships

We Can Have Hope In Spite of Irrelevant Faith

We Can Have Hope Because Hope is a Person

### KEY TRUTH:

In spite of the most tragic circumstances, we can have a hope that prevails. We can have hope, because hope is a person and His name is Jesus.

We find hope in Jesus, who pursues us.

### SCRIPTURE:

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup> "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. <sup>4</sup> As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." <sup>6</sup> Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. (John 9:1-6) NIV

*When God shows up, so does hope.*

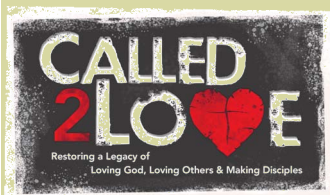
"Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, 'So shall your offspring be'" Romans 4:18.

"Against all hope ..." What an accurate description of faith in the midst of obstacles? This Old Testament story revealed how Abraham and Sarah's old age, combined with Sarah's unbelief, produced a staggering faith in God. And yet in the midst of all that seemed to challenge the promises of God, hope prevailed to bring forth Isaac. An entire nation was born!

It is this same prevailing hope that will enable us to face the obstacles in *our* world today.

After all, Scripture reminds us: "In this world you shall have tribulation" (John 16:33) This word, "tribulation" or Πῆσρέϊ in the Greek, speaks particularly of trouble, distress, hard circumstances or suffering.

**Opportunity** - Pastor, is there a time in your life when you have been in trouble or tribulation? Could you share with your congregation a personal time of distress or suffering and you needed a hope that prevailed? Also, be sure to have asked permission from anyone whose story you are telling if it is not entirely your own.





# Hope Is In His Word

## Introduction: Hope is in His Word...

**FOCAL SCRIPTURES:**

- Matthew 14:22-33
- Mark 6: 45-52
- Romans 15:4
- Hebrews 7:25
- Matthew 28:20
- John 15:11
- John 16:33
- John 17:18
- Luke 6:31,35
- Matthew 5:16

**OUTLINE:**

Introduction

Hope in His Word is Available

Hope in His Word Prompts Faith

Hope in His Word Brings the Support of Jesus

Hope Leads Us into Worship

**KEY TRUTH:**

God’s Scripture redirects the focus of our hope away from the uncertainty of changing circumstances to the peace and certainty of God’s Word. His Word remains true, regardless of whether our life storms subside!

We find hope in Jesus, who prays for us.

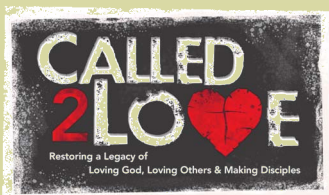
**SCRIPTURE:**

“for everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope” (Romans 15:4).

In the midst of life’s challenges and uncertainties, hope can be found in Scripture! Many of us have found this to be true: When we’re going through discouragement or rejection, grief, anxiety or loss, God’s Word has an amazing ability to encourage our hearts. It’s almost as if Scriptures come alive while we’re reading or meditating on God’s Word.

**Colossians 3:16 Preparation:** “Let the Word of Christ dwell richly in you ...” Pastor, take a few moments to remember a time when God brought hope to your heart through the encouragement of Scripture. Recall a personal valley or time of struggle when God spoke to you through a specific part of His Word. Share this part of your life story with the congregation.

The Psalmist declared, “You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in your word” (Psalm 119:114).





# Hope Is In His People

## Introduction: Hope is in His people...

### FOCAL SCRIPTURES:

- Ephesians 1:18-23
- Philippians 4:19
- 1 Corinthians 12:13-27
- John 6:9-11
- Matthew 10:8

### OUTLINE:

**Sharing Hope is our Calling**

**Sharing Hope Transforms Us**

**Sharing Hope from Your Inheritance**

### KEY TRUTH:

Just as hope is found in the Person of Jesus and the truth of His Word, God's design is for hope to be freely given and received among His people.

We find hope in Jesus, who provides.

### SCRIPTURE:

"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints" (Ephesians 1:18).

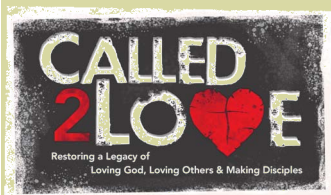
Years ago, during the U.S. Special Olympics, viewers were brought to tears during the 100-yard dash. When the starter's gun sounded, the runners, most of whom had Downs Syndrome, took off down the track. About midway through the race, one young boy stumbled and fell, sprawling on the track.

The crowds who were present, and the millions who were viewing, looked on in sympathy. The spectators were given an unforgettable lesson in the power of community by the runners they watched that day. One by one, the young runners stopped running and went back to the fallen boy. After helping the boy to his feet, the crowd of runners headed off again toward the finish line, crossing it together arm-in-arm.

". . . let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us" (Hebrews 12:1).

Scripture speaks of how we are running this race of faith. It's not a solo event, but a team relay where each of us is being encouraged by others toward love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24).

- A significant measure of the hope God has in mind for you is to be received in relationship with others, but our self-reliance can hinder this blessing.
- A significant measure of the hope that others need is to be shared in relationship with us, but our self-focus can hinder this blessing.
- Just as hope is found in the Person of Jesus and the truth of His Word, God's design is for hope to be freely given and received among His people.





# Hope Purifies

## Introduction: Hope purifies...

**FOCAL SCRIPTURES:**

- Mark 4:35-41
- Psalm 147:11
- Isaiah 40:31
- Jeremiah 29:11
- Lamentations 3:25
- Romans 5:5

**OUTLINE:**

Introduction

Hope Purifies Our Concept of God

Hope Purifies Our Faith in the Word

Hope Purifies Our Walk with Christ

**KEY TRUTH:**

Following Christ does not mean freedom from the storms of life. Rather, as we hope in Him and His Word and experience contagious hope among His people, life transformation takes place.

We find hope in Jesus, who welcomes us.

**SCRIPTURE:**

“Who then is this that even the wind and the sea obey Him?” (Mark 4:41)

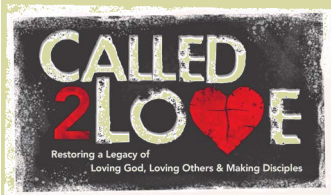
C.S. Lewis reminded us that: “God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks to us in our conscience, but shouts in our pains.”

In a world where tribulation is commonplace, trials are the norm and pain is inevitable, divine hope is essential. And when we embrace God’s divine hope, He brings unexpected benefits! Our deepened hope in Jesus and His Word, and our strengthened hope through the fellowship of others brings the purifying work of Christ-likeness.

In our text today, we’ll see how the disciples encounter Jesus again on the Sea of Galilee. The disciples came away different; they came away from their experience “purified!” When the disciples turn their attention from the storms of life to the person of Christ, not only did their hope return, but a purifying work took place.



“Everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure” (1 John 3:3).





# Hope Is Contagious

## Introduction: Hope is contagious ...

**FOCAL SCRIPTURES:**

- Colossians 1:27
- Exodus 3:3-4
- Ephesians 1:5-6
- Romans 15:13
- Matthew 11:28-30

**OUTLINE:**

Introduction

God’s Hope is For You To Express His Glory

God’s Hope is Empowered by the Wonder of Grace

God’s Hope Extends His Kingdom Invitation to Others

**KEY TRUTH:**

God has a hope to make His presence known through us. As we fulfill this calling, His life-giving hope becomes contagious.

We find hope in Jesus, who sends us to share His life and love with others.

**SCRIPTURE:**

“...to them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles, the glorious riches of this mystery which is Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27).

You and I (as Christ’s followers) have been made a part of a divine mystery. During this time together, we will seek to unravel the mystery that relates to our life purpose or “life calling.”

Everything in creation has been given a calling by God. Even our solar system speaks of God’s specific design and purpose. God designed the sun and planets in such a way as to provide sustenance for life on earth. We know that if the sun had been placed closer or farther from the earth’s surface, most of our planet would be uninhabitable. Furthermore, nature continually maintains the precarious equilibrium that is necessary for our survival. Our Creator designed every part of the ecological system to have an important place, a purpose to fulfill—a calling.

As the ones created in God’s image, you and I have an even greater certainty that we are created with a purpose to fulfill. We have a divine calling. As we become Christ’s followers, His Spirit comes to dwell within us. He reveals and empowers the calling that God has placed on our lives—not just a general calling, but a personal one. The question is not just, “Why did God create humanity?” but “Why did God make me?” We will discover a part of the answer to these questions today. We will discover that a part of why God created you, a part of why He made me is ... to make His presence known!

