



## The Basis for Our Hope

### The POINT >

Jesus is the only source of true hope.

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WHEN  
HAVE YOU  
BEEN GLAD  
YOU DIDN'T  
GIVE UP?

### > 1 PETER 1:1-9

<sup>1</sup>Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ: To those chosen, living as exiles dispersed abroad in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, chosen <sup>2</sup>according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient and to be sprinkled with the blood of Jesus Christ. May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you. <sup>5</sup>You are being guarded by God's power through faith for a salvation that is ready to be revealed

in the last time. <sup>6</sup>You rejoice in this, even though now for a short time, if necessary, you suffer grief in various trials <sup>7</sup>so that the proven character of your faith—more valuable than gold which, though perishable, is refined by fire—may result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>Though you have not seen him, you love him; though not seeing him now, you believe in him, and you rejoice with inexpressible and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup>because you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.



# THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

## FACT:

Martin Strel swam the entire 3,273 miles of the Amazon River in 66 days. He was accompanied by escort boats prepared to pour blood in the water to distract piranhas.<sup>1</sup>



## LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // JESUS

Jesus will one day return to exercise His reign over creation, and He will make all things new.

Florence Chadwick was a champion long-distance swimmer. She swam the 21 miles across the English Channel in 1950, and she did it faster than any other woman in history.

In 1952, she set her sights on a loftier goal: the 26-mile route between Catalina Island and the California mainland. The swim required her to pass through an oil leak, fight off nausea, and endure extreme fatigue as she swam for over 15 hours. As she neared the coastline, temperatures began to change and a heavy fog set in. Her breathing became labored, and since she couldn't see the shore, Florence feared she was swimming in circles. She lost hope. The skilled athlete did something she had never done before—Florence gave up and asked to be pulled from the water.

Florence soon learned that she had stopped only half a mile short of her goal. Many times, just like Florence, we too can lose hope. Life is often very difficult, and there are times when we question how we'll go on. But the apostle Peter pointed to the sure hope we have in Christ. We may become weary and discouraged, but victory is closer than we realize. It's all because of our hope in Christ.

## 1 PETER 1:1-3

**1** In your own words, how would you describe “hope”?

**2** What do people place their hope in today?



*We must be careful never to allow people and circumstances to rule our minds. Instead, we must continually renew our minds in His truth. #BSFLHope*

## 1 PETER 1:4-5

**3** How does Peter's description of our inheritance give us hope in the present?

**4** How have you seen the world's hope fade or fail?

**5** What is your response to knowing you are being "guarded by God's power"?

## 1 PETER 1:6-9

**6** What's the connection between our faith and our hope?

**7** When have you seen suffering translate into greater Christlikeness?

**8** What does it look like to rejoice in the midst of life's hardships?



# LIVE IT OUT



## LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // JESUS

*Jesus will one day return to exercise His reign over creation, and He will make all things new.*

Hope refers to a confident expectation that God will fulfill the good promises He has made to His people. Because of sin's curse upon creation, all people (including believers) will suffer in this life. But no matter what difficult things we go through, because of our hope in Christ, we can know that our eternal future with God is secure.

## > CHRIST

**9** Read back through 1 Peter 1:1-9. Make a list of the ways Peter described those who trust in Christ. Next to each idea, write a brief thought about how it applies to you.

GOD

**JESUS**

HOLY SPIRIT

BIBLE

SALVATION

CREATION

CHURCH

PEOPLE

FAMILY

COMMUNITY & WORLD

**CHOSEN**

God loved me and chose me as His child.



## > COMMUNITY

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**10** Who do you know who may be losing hope? Take time to meet or call them this week and share the truths the Lord has shown you in this study.



## > CULTURE

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The world places their hope in many places that can't deliver.

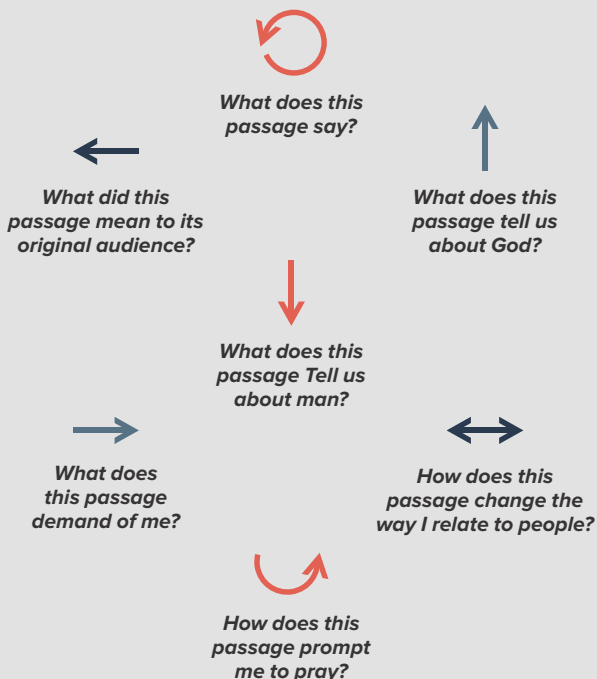
**11** Where do worldly people place their hope?

**12** How will you help your non-believing friends understand the hope available in Jesus?

# DAILY DEVOTIONS



## The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



## Day One GALATIANS 6:7

There are many places in Scripture where agricultural principles were used to help people understand spiritual principles. Jesus spoke of the gospel as seeds which are planted in the hearts of people (Mark 4:1-20). The prophets referred to the people of Israel as a vine (Ps. 80:8-16, Isa. 5:1-7, Jer. 2:21). James pointed out that farmers have to be patient, waiting for rain to nourish the crops they'd planted (Jas. 5:7). And here, Paul spoke about the principles of sowing and reaping—specifically, we reap what we sow. Here's the issue. Many people today believe that we can "sow" whatever we'd like in this life and still "reap" the blessings of God. This perspective, however, is mockery, for it says that God is not just. God's justice requires that righteousness is rewarded and sin is punished. To believe a person can sow unrighteousness but reap blessing is an offense against God's character. Here's the truth—God's rewards are reserved for those who live by faith in obedience. We reap what we sow.

- **When have you expected to receive something you didn't deserve?**
- **How specifically is God calling you to sow seeds that matter for eternity?**



## Day Two

# GALATIANS 6:8a



In this life, all people are tempted by sin. Even Christians. The “flesh” refers to the part of human nature that has been corrupted by sin, and we’ll struggle with it as long as we’re in this life. When our flesh tempts us to sin, we have a choice to make—*Will I give in, or will I refuse, choosing to live in obedience to God?* There are serious consequences based on the choices we make. At times, we may think we’ve gotten away with sin—after all, fire didn’t rain down from heaven the first time you chose to disobey God. Nonetheless, every sin has the effect of hardening our hearts, and ultimately, this leads us to reject God.

➤ **How specifically does your flesh tempt you?**

➤ **How has God shown you patience when you’ve sinned?**

## Day Three

# GALATIANS 6:8b

When we make choices according to sinful, fleshly desires, this leads to destruction. However, sowing to the Spirit leads to life. One of the Holy Spirit’s primary ministries to believers is to help us not only to understand God’s Word, but to empower us to live it out. Even still, we are responsible to live in the ways the Spirit leads. When we make right choices, we are sowing seeds for the future that we can expect will grow up and bear healthy fruit. Over time, this process of sowing and reaping good things will produce God’s great blessings. However, we shouldn’t be confused—it’s not our obedience or good actions in and of themselves that lead to eternal life. It’s the righteousness of Jesus that produces eternal life for all God’s people. Our obedience—sowing in the Spirit—is simply God’s grace allowing us to live as Jesus lived. And when we follow Christ, we will share in eternal life.

➤ **How are you sowing in the Spirit every day?**

➤ **What fruit are you seeing grow out of those choices?**

## Day Four

# GALATIANS 6:9

School is a grind. Band rehearsal is a grind. Football practice, chores around the house, and relationships can all be a grind. We'd all like for the things we pursue in life to be smooth and easy, and we'd like to have a never-ending supply of motivation. But this simply isn't the way it works. Our faith is often a lot like this. There are times we'll feel encouraged and energized to take on the world. But these emotions often wear off sooner rather than later, and this is when the genuineness of our faith is tested. Many people, when life gets tough or when living in obedience seems a bit tedious, will simply give up—walk away from God's commands as well as His promises. But for those who have truly been changed and who belong to God, we will press on in doing good. We all get tired, but we must not give up! If we press on, we will receive the good things God has promised.

➤ **When have you become tired or discouraged in your faith?**

➤ **What helps you press on?**

## Day Five

# GALATIANS 6:10



In our culture, we are taught to focus on ourselves: *What makes me happy? How can I get ahead?* And if someone is a really good dude, he may go out of his way to do something kind for someone else when it's convenient. But this is the way of the world and not the way of God. Paul says that when there is an opportunity, we should do good for others. This isn't a when-it's-convenient call, because the truth is that we make opportunities to pursue the things we really want. The opportunity we have to serve others, even sacrificially, exists whenever we make it a priority, and for the children of God, this is to be a continual choice.

➤ **What is the balance between pursuing our own desires and sacrificing for others?**

➤ **How do you create opportunities to serve others?**