

# Hope

**Opener:** What is one thing you're hoping for right now?

**Scripture:** But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love,<sup>19</sup> to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine.<sup>20</sup> We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.<sup>21</sup> In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.<sup>22</sup> May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you. Psalm 33:18-22

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In 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 can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,<sup>5</sup> who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.<sup>6</sup> In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in many trials. I Peter 1:3-6

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain,<sup>20</sup> where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. Hebrews 6:19-20

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

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1

## Discussion Questions

1. Psalm 33 celebrates God's awesome majesty and sovereignty. It establishes that God created the world and makes it clear that He's looking for those who fear Him and put their hope in Him. What does it mean to fear the Lord? Give examples that show how fear affects our relationship with Him. Ps. 33:18
2. What does hope mean to you? Is hope the same as desire? How is hope different than optimism? What's the opposite of hope? Psalm 33:18
3. How is Biblical hope different than the world's idea of hope? How do we receive that kind of hope? Is it only related to eternity, or does it affect us here? If so, how? Ps. 33:19; I Pet. 1:3-6; Hebrews 6:19-20
4. What's the difference between hope and faith? What links hope and faith? Romans 4:18 says, "Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed . . ." What did he believe and how would it have helped him as he dealt with setbacks? Psalm 33:20; Hebrews 11:1
5. Has your hope in the Lord ever been threatened? Have you felt deserted? Have you gone back to worldly resources? How can false hope or unrealistic expectations have negative consequences? Psalm 33:20-21
6. How can we become more aware of the hope we have in Jesus? How can we be more effective in sharing the hope we have in Him with others? Psalm 33:22; I Peter 1:3-6; Hebrews 6:19-20
7. Will there be hope in heaven? Will there be hope in hell? Explain why or why not.

**Wrap Up:** Biblical hope is a settled, determined expectation given to us by God that's rooted in who He is and what He promises. Hope is linked to faith, but it's not the same. Faith is believing and trusting that God is who He says He is, while hope confidently expects He will bless us in the future. Although David lived on the other side of the resurrection, he had this hope. As Peter wrote, praise God for the living hope we have through Jesus' resurrection! It really is an anchor for our soul. No one can take that away from us.