

# Guided to the Cross Bible Study

Lent, 2024

Session 2 – Guided to Hope

*<sup>10</sup> He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us.  
On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again.*

2 Corinthians 1:10

English Standard Version (ESV)

**INTRODUCTION:** Anytime the word *hope* is mentioned in a Christian context, it must always be mentioned that we do not mean here some kind of wishful thinking or a chance possibility. When we say *hope* in Christian circles, we mean a sure and solid confidence and joyous reality on the horizon. We have hope in Jesus. We have hope in heaven. We have hope in God’s plan of salvation. There is nothing tentative about it. it is part of who we are as God’s children and it is at the heart of what we say “to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3:15).

## **OPENING PRAYER**

**Dear Jesus, we find hope in your cross. Help us not to despair along the way this Lent, but always look to you, our Crucified Lord and Savior, as the way to our future in heaven with you. lift our spirits with excitement in what is to come through your salvation, and lift from our shoulders the heavy load of sadness, guilt, and regret. Amen.**

**DISCUSSION – Who is someone in your life who has great hope in the Lord?**

## **HOPE AT THE CROSS**

Read **Luke 23:39-43**.

- What is the difference between the two criminals on the crosses on either side of Jesus?
- How is the approach of secular society toward Jesus oftentimes like that of the first criminal who speaks?
- How are the words of the second criminal like the words of St. Paul in 1 Timothy 1:15 (*The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost.*)?
- How does Jesus respond to the criminal who asks Jesus to remember him? Why does Jesus’ response bring us hope?

## CONFIDENCE IN CHRIST

Read **1 Corinthians 15:12-23**.

- Why is life futile if we do not have hope in Jesus s our Savior?
- What do Christ's death and resurrection mean for us?
- What does it mean that we belong to Christ?

## HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Read **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**.

- What happens to those who have no hope?
- What is the proclamation that gives us as Christians hope?
- How can we “encourage one another with these words” (v. 18)?

## RESPONSIVE READING – PSALM 42:1-5

<sup>1</sup> As a deer longs for flowing streams,

**so I long for you, God.**

<sup>2</sup> I thirst for God,

**the living God.**

When can I come

**and appear before God?**

<sup>3</sup> My tears have been my food day and night,

**while all day long people say to me,**

**“Where is your God?”**

<sup>4</sup> I remember this as I pour out my heart:

**how I walked with many,**

**leading the festive procession to the house of God,**

**with joyful and thankful shouts.**

<sup>5</sup> Why, my soul, are you so dejected?

**Why are you in such turmoil?**

Put your hope in God, for I will still praise him,

**my Savior and my God.**

Christian Standard Bible (CSB)

**CLOSING HYMN**

**Red #368**

**“My Hope Is Built”**

**My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame but wholly lean on Jesus' name.  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.  
All other ground is sinking sand.**

**When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;  
In ev'ry high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil.  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.  
All other ground is sinking sand.**

**His oath, his covenant, his blood support me in the whelming flood;  
When all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.  
All other ground is sinking sand.**

**When he shall come with trumpet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,  
Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before his throne!  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.  
All other ground is sinking sand.**

**CLOSING PRAYER**

**Fill us, O Jesus, with hope in you through your cross. Focus our attention on the door of heaven you have opened for us through your suffering and death. Keep us confident in your blessings toward us today and the glory that awaits us. Help us to be beacons of hope to people who are lost and in need of direction. Amen.**

**VERSE FOR THE WEEK**

**Romans 15:13**

*I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.*

New Living Translation (NLT)