



Ice breaker: Think of a time you felt discouraged or stuck. What helped lift your perspective or give you hope?

Read and reflect on 1 Peter 1:3-5:

³ 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, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ 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.

Sermon and Scripture Application Discussion:

I. Hope That Flows from God's Mercy (1 Peter 1:3)

(Anchor of our hope: the resurrection of Jesus Christ)

1. Read 1 Peter 1:3.
 - What is the foundation (or anchor) of our hope according to this verse?
 - Why is the resurrection of Jesus essential to having a "living hope"? (See also 1 Corinthians 15:17–20)
 - The sermon described hope as a "bedrock certainty," not wishful thinking. How is this different from how the world typically uses the word "hope"?
2. Illustration: The sermon compared us to hitchhikers—God stops to rescue us not because of our worth, but because of His mercy.
 - What does this picture teach us about God's motivation in saving us? (See Ephesians 2:4–5)
 - How does understanding mercy (not earning it) change the way we relate to God?
 - How should this lead us to respond in praise? (1 Peter 1:3)

II. Hope That Comes from New Birth (1 Peter 1:3; John 3:3)

(The resurrection makes new life possible)

3. Read 1 Peter 1:3 and John 3:3.
 - What does it mean to be "born again into a living hope"?
 - How is this different from self-improvement or religion? (See 2 Corinthians 5:17)
 - Why is it important that this new birth comes through the resurrection of Jesus?
4. Illustration: "No one takes credit for being born."
 - How does this help us understand our role (and God's role) in salvation?
 - In what ways have you seen evidence of "new life" in yourself or others?
 - What areas of your life still need to reflect this new identity? (Romans 6:4)

III. Hope That Comes from a Secure Future (1 Peter 1:4–5)

(The resurrection guarantees our future)

5. Read 1 Peter 1:4–5.
 - How does Peter describe our inheritance? Why do these words matter?
 - How does the resurrection of Jesus guarantee that this future is real and secure?

Community Group Sermon Notes April 5, 2026

Senior Pastor, Kevin Flannery

Sermon Title: EASTER - Praise God for Our Hope in Christ

Spring Term: Week 14 of 20



- Illustration: The sermon said Easter is not “replay footage of a close game,” but a decisive victory already won. How does that change the way we view present struggles? (See Romans 8:18)
 - 6. The passage says we are “shielded by God’s power through faith.”
 - What does it mean that God both protects our inheritance and protects us?
 - Illustration: Like an older brother protecting someone from danger (and from themselves), how have you seen God guard your life or faith?
 - How can this truth strengthen you in seasons of fear or temptation? (See Jude 24)
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Digging Deeper — *(Work through one together, over the week, or assign portions to different members.)*

- The sermon says our hope is anchored in: Past: Jesus rose. Present: Jesus lives. Future: Jesus is coming. Which of these do you most need to hold onto right now, and why?
 - Peter went from failure to boldness (Luke 22:54–62; Acts 2:14). How does the resurrection reshape our failures and give us renewed purpose?
 - Reflect on the opening illustration of people sitting in church with hidden struggles. How does the message of resurrection hope speak into real-life situations like those? Which of those struggles resonates the most with you?
 - Read Matthew 10:28. How does eternal security in Christ reshape what we fear most?
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Closing Prayer:

Lord, thank You for giving us a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Help us to trust in Your mercy, walk in the new life You’ve given us, and rest in the security of our future with You. Fill our hearts with hope so that we may live with confidence and joy, no matter what we face. Christ is risen; He has risen indeed! Amen.

Faith in Action:

April 12, Discover COS, 10:15 & 11:45 AM, A120

April 18, New Members Course, 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM, A106

May 10, Mothers Day, Building A

June 22-26, Summer Bible Camp