

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

Hope This Christmas

1 Peter 1:3-5

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

To read Pastor Matt’s weekly blog on his weekend message, click here:

<https://centralchristianblog.com>

OPEN:

1. Have you finished your Christmas shopping? Have you started your Christmas shopping? Have you thought about Christmas shopping?
2. What part of the Christmas season do you look forward to most?

DIG:

1. How do you define hope? How does the Bible define hope? From the time of man’s fall, what did the people of God hope for?
2. Who is Peter writing to?
3. Read John 3:1-21. How does being born again give us hope?
4. What did Jesus secure for us through His death and resurrection? What does being joint heirs mean? Read Luke 12:33-34. How does this give us hope?
5. Not only is our hope a living one, and not only is our inheritance an everlasting one, but both are protected by the power of God. The same power that brought the world into existence and the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is the same power that rescued us and protects us. Paul says, “For by grace you have been saved through faith...” (Ephesians 2:8-9). Discuss this promise.

REFLECT:

1. Why is important to remember these things: 1) that we’ve been chosen by God, 2) that this world is not our home, and 3) that both our present and future are secure ?

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2. We often set our hope on people or events that only disappoint. They can't carry the weight of our hope. They weren't designed for that. We're too busy trying to create the perfect life here, refusing to admit that the world in its current state is destined for destruction. This world and the things of it are doomed to disappear, yet we sometimes find ourselves clinging to it as if our life depends on it. We forget that our hope is resurrection...it's the kingdom life that is available now and lasts into eternity. It's true peace, joy and love. Not the counterfeit version that this world offers. We are sojourners here. So where is your hope this Christmas? Who are you hoping in?
3. Hope placed in anyone or anything other than Jesus will disappoint. It will fail. Why?

5 MARKS FOCUS: SHARE YOUR STORY

This Christmas season we really want to foster an invitation culture. We want to encourage you to invite your friends and family, your neighbors and co-workers, classmates and teammates not only to our services on the weekend—that of course is a great idea—but invite them to be a part of your life. Have them over for dinner. Bring them along to an event. Build some bridges for sharing your story with them. *This Christmas* we want to be fully “present” to share the hope that we’ve found in Jesus. We can all do that.