New Creation Church

Small Group Guide Week of Nov 01, 2026

This Is How We Live | HOPE

Key Takeaways

- The return of Jesus Christ is our greatest hope and our greatest expectation. It is not a threat -- it is a promise meant to bring comfort.
- Hope in Christ's return has a purifying and sustaining effect on how we live every day.
- Grace teaches us to say no to ungodliness and to look forward to the glorious appearing of Jesus (Titus 2:11-13).
- Hope is what sustains all the other ways we live as believers. Without hope, the other six words in this series lose their staying power.
- We are called to finish our race with joy -- not by ignoring hardship, but by keeping our focus on Jesus.

Discussion Questions

1. "Sometimes you might be amongst some believers and the next big thing they're looking for is always earthbound." What are some of the earthbound things that tend to become our focus? How do we hold those things in their proper place without dismissing them entirely?
2. Galatians 6:9 encourages believers not to grow weary in doing good. Even the strongest believers feel weary sometimes. What can cause a believer to feel weary in doing good and what can help us keep going?
3. Hebrews 12 describes Jesus enduring the cross for the joy set before Him, which included seeing people come to faith -- how does understanding that Christ's sacrifice was motivated by joy change the way you think about your own acts of service and sacrifice?
4. This is the final week of "This Is How We Live." Hope is what sustains all the other six words. How is it more difficult, when hope is lost, to surrender, belong, serve, release, give, and go?

Practical Applications

1. **Look Up** Every Day Each morning this week, begin your day by thanking God that Jesus is coming back. Let that reality shape your attitude before anything else does. Consider writing it somewhere you will see it -- a note on your mirror, a reminder on your phone, or the first line in your journal.

2. **Do Not Quit** Identify one area of your life where you have been tempted to stop doing good -- a ministry role, a relationship you are investing in, a spiritual discipline that has felt dry. Make a decision this week not to quit.

3. **Finish Well** Ask yourself the question posed at the close of the message: What is God asking me to do faithfully right now? Bring that answer to God in prayer and ask Him for the grace and joy to do it well -- not just to do it, but to do it with the right heart.

Prayer Focus

- Pray for a renewed and genuine expectation of Christ's return in each group member's heart
- Pray for those in the group who are weary and tempted to quit
- Pray for joy -- not manufactured positivity, but the deep, anchored joy that comes from keeping our eyes on Jesus
- Thank God that the best is truly yet to come

1 Corinthians 15:58 - Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.