

YEAR OF GROWTH

HOPE WEEK 3

EXAMPLES

New Testament:

Day One – Sunday

Reflect on the definitions of the words that God used to describe hope. Think back over the previous lessons. Read again the passages that you have written. Recall the verses you have memorized. Focus on the meaning of hope and prepare to explore important Bible examples.

Day Two – Monday

Acts 2:22-27

Though Jesus went to the cross, He did so with the hope of the resurrection. The fact that the grave could not hold Him was prophesied by David in Psalm 16. This gave hope not only to Jesus but also to David. Because of the promise of Jesus' resurrection, David could also "rest in hope." And, as Peter declared on Pentecost, Jesus was raised from the dead (vs. 32). Thus, we all have hope!

Day Three – Tuesday

Acts 26:4-8

In his defense before Agrippa, Paul proclaimed the hope of God's promise made to the children of Israel. That hope had been realized in Jesus – His sacrifice, His Gospel, and His church. All of these were centered upon and confirmed by His resurrection from the dead. Yet, the Jews had rejected Jesus. They still hoped to come to the promise of God. However, their hope was powerless because it was not placed in Jesus.

Day Four – Wednesday**Acts 27:20-25**

For Paul and those on the ship with him in the midst of the terrible storm, all appeared hopeless. Yet Paul recognized the true source of hope. The angel of God had informed him that no one would die due to this storm. Because of this hope, Paul encouraged them to “be of good cheer” and to “fear not.” No situation is hopeless with faith in God!

Day Five – Thursday**1 Corinthians 9:9-14**

Paul stated a fundamental principle: those who work should expect to partake of the fruit of their labor. In fact, nearly all work is based upon hope. Usually, results of one’s labor are not seen immediately. Pay for one’s efforts only comes after the work is done. So it is with the Christian life. We serve God and labor in His vineyard in hope of the reward of Heaven. Yet, our hope is certain, for God’s promises are guaranteed.

Day Six – Friday**2 Corinthians 1:3-7**

God is the God of all comfort. He comforts us so we can help to console and encourage others. Yet, it is a fact that the Christian will suffer in this life. Paul’s hope for his brethren was that comfort would come at the end of their suffering. That is the hope of all children of God. At the end of life’s tests and trials, we will find comfort in the presence of our God.

Day Seven – Saturday**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

Though the Christian sorrows and is challenged with grief, his heartache is tempered by hope. For the Christian, the separation caused by death is only temporary. We know that God is true to His Word. One day, there will be a reunion with our loved ones who are children of God. Our hope gives us comfort.