SUMMARY

We all need a hope we can hold on to. In this series, we’ll look through the Scriptures to see that God has a plan for our lives, will provide for us, and is a living hope we can hold on to. We will learn to walk in truth and believe that despite their circumstances, the future is bright!
Week One:

GOD HAS A PLAN FOR YOU!

What do you think of when you hear the word hope? “I hope I get a good grade on that test...” “I hope he/she texts me back...” “I hope...” Often we water hope down by really making it sound like wishful thinking.

Think about a time you hoped for something in a shallow way.

Scripture paints a very different picture of hope. In Scripture, hope is a strong belief, not wishful thinking. As we dive into the topic of hope this month, let’s start by asking a hard question.

Do you have a plan for your life? Even a dream of what it will look like?

**JEREMIAH 29:10-13 —**

10-11 This is God’s Word on the subject: “As soon as Babylon’s seventy years are up and not a day before, I’ll show up and take care of you as I promised and bring you back home. I know what I’m doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for. 12 “When you call on me, when you come and pray to me, I’ll listen. 13-14 “When you come looking for me, you’ll find me.

God was telling His people that He has a great plan for them while they were in captivity. God’s plan for His people was to endure the difficulty, and to pursue His plan for their lives — and their future will be bright. You might be enduring a situation right now — this is the perfect time to hear directly from God that He has a plan for you!

We often try to make our own plan, and looking back, it was a terrible plan compared to God’s plan! The good news is that you don’t have to figure out all the details of your life. Just trust God, because He has a plan for you!

**THINK IT THROUGH AND TALK IT OUT!**

1. What do you think of when you hear the word hope? What comes to mind?
2. Do you believe that God has a plan for your life? Why or why not?
3. What is the difference between asking for hope and pursuing the source of hope?
4. How can you trust God this week as your source of hope?

**BONUS MATERIAL**

**KNOWING AND FEELING**

HERE TO THERE
Week Two:

**GOD IS GOING TO PROVIDE FOR YOU!**

Have you ever felt like your back was against a wall, and there was no way out?

I think we all feel this way in our lives. Some of us may be at the end of our rope, and it feels like there’s no hope for our future. Maybe you’re thinking about your future — college, job, finances, relationships, etc. and thinking, “How in the world is this going to work out?” We may even freak out because we have big needs and don’t know if God is going to come through!

Are you afraid your situation is so bad God can’t take care of it? We may not outright say that — but we may be living like it. Be honest with yourself. A lot of us doubt that God can or will provide for us. We believe God wants to speak to you directly about the needs you have in your life.

**PHILIPPIANS 1:6** —

6 And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

God is going to finish what He started. He started something in your life and will see it through to completion.

We have a common phrase that we often use: “Don’t get your hopes up.” It means that we should avoid hope, so if things don’t go well, it won’t hurt as bad. Have you ever stopped to think about how negative this is? We use it often without thinking, but we are encouraging people to not have hope out of fear of what might not work out.

We believe that with God, we can confidently say, “Get your hopes up.” Expect great provision. Have faith that doesn’t make sense but trusts God’s plan for your life.

Get your hopes up by speaking hope out loud! Any time you feel a negative thought, literally speak up against it. Speak the verses we shared or other verses that encourage you!

**THINK IT THROUGH AND TALK IT OUT!**

1. Do you have a big situation in your life that needs provision? If you’re comfortable, share with the group.
2. How does it feel knowing that God has not only started a good work in you but will see it through until it’s finished?
3. Have you experienced God’s provision before? Share it with the group!
4. How can you get your hopes up this week?

**BONUS MATERIAL**

WHERE DO HOPE AND POWER COME FROM?
Week Three:

JESUS IS OUR LIVING HOPE

Has something ever been deferred in your life? Deferred is another way of saying that something got delayed or postponed. Like a big game that got postponed due to bad weather, a new game or movie that was delayed “until further notice,” or your latest Amazon order delayed because it got lost in transition.

Sometimes when something gets deferred, it almost feels like we’ll never get to see it at all. You’ve been waiting so long that it almost feels like it’s gone forever!

As we’ve talked about hope this month, maybe you feel like you’ve gone so long without hope that you wonder if you could ever feel it again. Maybe you believe that hope hasn’t just been delayed — but destroyed in your life.

Do you feel like hope is always evading you? Like everyone else experiences it, but you’re left alone in the dark? We believe that Scripture has a solution — and can show you real hope that you can experience.

PROVERBS 13:12 —
12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a dream fulfilled is a tree of life.

Imagine the hope you have been craving — indefinitely postponed, and nowhere in sight. Even Scripture says — that will make us sick! There has to be a solution! Where is real hope and how can I find it?

Hope is not just a concept to understand or something we talk ourselves into thinking. We have a living hope in Jesus Christ.

Did you know that one of the largest anchors created weighed over 75 tons? That’s 150,000lbs. Imagine trying to move this anchor even an inch to the left or right — it’s impossible to move. This is what hope looks like in Jesus Christ — steadfast, immovable, and bigger than we could ever imagine.

Scripture uses this beautiful analogy to show us that we can trust Jesus. You don’t have to do anything besides place your faith in his immovable promise for you! Receive hope by placing your trust in Jesus!

THINK IT THROUGH AND TALK IT OUT!
1. What’s the worst delay you have ever experienced? How did you respond?
2. Have you/do you feel hopeless? Briefly share what keeps you stuck in hopelessness.
3. What’s the difference between the “idea of hope” and living hope in Jesus?
4. How do you need to place your trust in Jesus this week to accept hope?