

SCRIPTURE CARD GUIDE FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

"CONFUSED ABOUT HOPE" APRIL 7

SERIES OVERVIEW:

Could it be that our thinking about heaven, the resurrection and how we follow Jesus as the church are leading us to places that Jesus never intended? What would it look like to recapture Biblical Hope by truly understanding the power of the resurrection and the hope of the future, even as we wait for Jesus to come again.

Follow the directions below for a guided group discussion with a friend, in a family, small group, etc. Grab a Scripture Card (printed or electronic) and simply follow steps from 1 to 6 on this page and the next.

1

PRAY

About 1 minute

Open with prayer.

2

BIG IDEA

A minute to read

Every time we join together in the words of the Apostle's Creed we declare, "I believe in the resurrection of the body." But do we? Do we really believe that one day our physical bodies will be resurrected like the body of Jesus? The first followers of Jesus did and it changed everything, and that truth is the key to discovering real Hope!

3

CONNECT

About 10 minutes

How do you think our culture would describe heaven?

How would you describe it?

easter message series

SURPRISED BY HOPE

WOODBURY LUTHERAN

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"But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died." - 1 Corinthians 15:20 NLT

Reflect

A prayer to start...Father, as I read your word, please open my ears to hear and my heart to surrender to your purposes today.

Read the full passage in your Bible - 1 Corinthians 15:1-20
Where do you think the things you believe about death and resurrection and heaven come from? Are they grounded in scripture?

Jesus promises that our physical bodies will be resurrected. Do you believe it?

How's your hope level today? In what ways is your daily hope rooted in your identity in Jesus? What is it rooted in?

4

DISCIPLE LIFE DISCUSSION

About 45-50 minutes. Read the Scripture above and discuss the questions there. Additional questions below.

1 Cor 15:3-6 is a condensed version of the Gospel. List out the facts presented here. What words or phrases stand out to you in these three verses today and why?

Re-read 1 Cor 15:12-20. Why is the resurrection of Jesus important? What are the implications if He did not rise from the dead?

Read John 20:24-29, Luke 24:35-43, and 1 Cor 15:35-55. What do we learn about Jesus' resurrected body here? What questions do you still have? What additional Scriptures help give you peace and assurance about your life after death?

How does the resurrection of your body impact the way you think of your life today and life in eternity?

In what ways does Jesus' resurrection offer hope for both the present and the future?



DISCUSSION HELP:

Use follow-up questions to take the discussion deeper. Guide answers to be honest and real.

Can you say more about that?

How have you seen that play out in your life?

What does that stir up in you?

Has anyone else had a similar thought or experience?

What might God be inviting you to do?

5 PRAY:

About 15 minutes

Read the prayer prompts and allow for a time of reflection. Share prayer requests and pray for the person on your LEFT in a circle prayer now. The leader or apprentice may close in prayer.

THE [DISCIPLE] LIFE

Pray

Turn to God and use the previous question as a springboard for prayer. Maybe it's gratitude or maybe it's something else. Take the risk to be honest with God.

Invite God to show you where you look for hope. If something surfaces that seems like sin, confess that to God and receive his forgiveness.

Who is someone you know whose hope may be grounded in something other than Jesus? Pray for them today.

Live It Out

The first followers of Jesus believed in the resurrection and it changed everything. They were hope distributors. What might it look like for you to be a hope distributor this week? Ask Jesus and take one simple step to live this out.

**Jesus, thank you for inviting me
into this LIFE of following you today!**

6

LIVE IT OUT:

About 2 minutes

Read the "Live It Out" section and invite the group to take the steps noted.