



Opening Question

- When you hear the word *hope*, what comes to mind?
- Would you say your hope is usually based on circumstances or something deeper?

1. Hope That Feels vs. Hope That Lasts

Read: Matthew 28:8 - “The women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy...”

- Why do you think the women felt both fear *and* joy at the same time?
- What does this teach us about the difference between emotions and true hope?
- Where in your life have your feelings and your faith felt like they were in tension?

Key Idea: Christian hope doesn’t remove emotion—it anchors us beyond it.

2. The Journey of Hope Through Holy Week

- Which moment in the “Hope journey” stands out to you most?
 - Hope begins (Palm Sunday)
 - Hope tested (midweek)
 - Hope seems lost (Good Friday)
 - Hope waits (Saturday)
 - Hope rises (Easter)
- Where do you feel like you are right now in that journey?
- How does knowing the *end of the story* (resurrection) change how we view the hard moments?

Key Idea: Even when hope feels lost, God is still working.

3. What Are You Carrying? (The Rock)

- The sermon used a rock to represent what feels heavy or hopeless.
- What is something in your life right now that feels like “rock bottom”?
- Why is it often hard to let go of those things?
- What would it look like for you to truly trust Jesus with that weight?

Key Idea: Jesus doesn’t just give hope—He invites us to hand over what weighs us down.

April 5 – “Hope Renewed”— Easter Sunday – Lead Pastor Marc Riegel

Matthew 28:1–10

4. The Scars of Jesus and the Gospel

- Why do you think Jesus kept His scars after the resurrection?
- What does it mean that “He suffered in our place” and “paid our sin debt”?
- How does understanding sin (separation from God) help us understand why the cross matters?

Key Idea: The scars are proof that sin has been paid for—and hope is secure.

5. Doubt, Faith, and Thomas

Read: John 20:24–29

- What do you relate to most about Thomas?
- How does Jesus respond to his doubt?
- What does this show us about how Jesus treats people who are unsure or skeptical?

Key Idea: Jesus meets honest doubt with invitation, not rejection.

6. Responding to the Resurrection

- The sermon says our response is to:
 - Turn from sin (repentance)
 - Trust in Jesus
- What does that look like practically in everyday life?
- Have you personally made that decision? If so, what changed? If not, what questions do you still have?

Key Idea: Hope is not just something we hear about—it’s something we receive.

Closing Reflection

- What is one thing you feel led to “lay down” before Jesus this week?
- What would it look like to live as if hope is truly alive?

Optional Prayer

“Jesus, thank You that You are alive and that hope is real because of Your actions on the cross. Help me to trust You with what I’ve been carrying, to turn from what separates me from You, and to walk in the new life You offer. Amen.”