## TOPIC: MY HOPE IS IN THE LORD

I will put my hope in God throughout all of my experiences in life.

### KEY POINTS

- Hope is defined as "a feeling of expectation and desire for a specific thing to happen"
- Hope in God can be defined as the expectation that God will do a specific thing in our lives or answer a specific prayer.
- It is believed that the prophet Jeremiah wrote Lamentations, a book of five poems. It was written as he mourned the destruction of the city of Jerusalem that took place in 586 BC.
- The destruction described in the book of Lamentations refers to the devastation executed against Jerusalem by King Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians.
- The author of the book of Lamentations is in anguish over all of the devastation he has witnessed.
- The facts that Jerusalem was destroyed and Solomon`s temple was burned to the ground was a consequence of the lifestyle choices made by the children of Israel.
- In the book of Deuteronomy, the Lord through his servant Moses laid out the benefits of obedience to his word and the consequences of disobedience to his word.
- The Lord promised his people continuous blessings and prosperity if they would consistently obey his word (Blessings of Obedience: Deuteronomy 28:1-2, 6, 12-13 NIV).
- Consequently the Lord warned the children of Israel about the judgement they would experience if they did not consistently obey his word (Consequences of Disobedience: Deuteronomy 28:15, 25-26 NIV).
- It is clear from the book of Jeremiah that there were people in Jerusalem who were living contrary to the word of God and experienced the consequences of their lifestyle choices.
- We also know that there were people in Israel who were trying to honour God with their lifestyle choices and live in obedience to the word of God. We have examples like the prophet Ezekiel, the prophet Jeremiah, and Daniel.
- Their circumstances would be similar to that of Job and Joseph in that they experienced tragic situations while trying to live for God.
- We have to put our hope in God in spite of the situations that we experience in life.
- The book of Judges demonstrates how the children of Israel displayed hope in God in light of the fact that they consistently suffered the consequences of disobeying the word of God (Judges 2:14-18 NIV).
- The Lord raised up judges like Samson and Gideon in response to the hope for deliverance that the children of Israel expressed in God.
- The author of Lamentations encourages himself that he has a reason to put his hope in God throughout all of his life experiences (Lamentations 3:21-25 NIV).
- Our hope is in the Lord because of his limitless power, mercy, and grace.
- Our hope is in the Lord because of his immeasurable compassion, kindness and help.
- Our hope is in the Lord because of the depth of his affection, adoration and love for us.
- Scriptures that encourage us to place our hope in God (Psalms 42:11, 33:18, 31:24, 130:5, 131:3, Romans 15:13– KJV).

**Key Scriptures:**
**Lamentations 3:17-25**

### Discussion Tools

1. List some ways we demonstrate hope in God by our actions.
2. Discuss two challenges to placing our hope in God that we experience as Christians.
3. Share an experience when you had a trial of faith and it was a challenge for you to place your hope in God.
4. Why do you think it is important to think about the past blessings of God in our lives when we face challenging circumstances?
5. What are the benefits of placing our hope in the Lord?

### Discipleship Project Family Connection

*During a family devotion time this week, discus:*

- Identify the spiritual "gifts of power" (1 Corinthians 12:9-10a).
- What is the purpose of these gifts (from God's perspective)?
- Describe a situation where this gift has been seen (e.g. has someone witnessed a miracle?).
- Why are these gifts important to the Church?
- Pray for one another that you will recognize and exercise the gifts of the Spirit within you.

### Notes

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**Prayer Time**

Lord please help me to always put my hope in you throughout all my experiences in life.

**Life Group icebreaker: What is the first thing you do after a long day at work?**

### WEEK OF SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2016
### PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS/COMMENTS:

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