



LIFEGROUPS

Series: *Four Gifts*

Scripture: *1 Peter 1:3-9*

Date: Nov. 30-Dec. 1, 2019

Message: *The Gift of Hope*

—[LET'S START]—

We just celebrated Thanksgiving and are less than a month away from celebrating Christmas. What are some of your family's Christmas traditions? What do you remember hoping for the most during a Christmas season from previous years?

—[LET'S TALK]—

1. **GRATITUDE AND PRAYER:** What happened last week for which you are thankful? What challenges do you see in your life? Your family? The World? Thank God for the beautiful ways that He has been at work. Pray for the challenges that those in your group are currently facing.
2. In this week's message, Pastor Dale preached about the first of four gifts of Christmas. This week's message focused on hope. What makes people hopeful or gives people a lack of hope?
3. Read 1 Peter 1:3-12

What did Pastor Dale teach us about the people that Peter was writing to? Why could these people have made excuses to live hopeless lives?

What do these verses teach us about hope? Where is our hope found?

In verse six we read about rejoicing in suffering. How can we do that? Do you have some examples from your life where you have been able to rejoice while suffering?

Look at verses 10-12. These verses speak about the prophets of old. What do they tell us that the prophets looked forward to?

4. Read Isaiah 9:6-7. How do we see hope reflected in this prophecy of the Messiah?
5. Let's look at one more prophecy about the Messiah. Read Isaiah 53. We don't typically read this prophecy at Christmastime. Why is it important to think about this prophecy? How does this prophecy help us further understand hope?
6. Read Hebrews 12:1-2. Why could Jesus experience hope in the midst of great suffering?

—[**LET'S ACT**]—

We all know people in our lives who need hope this Christmas. What is one way that we can support each other in sharing the hope of Christ with the people in our lives this Christmas season? Let's not just talk about sharing Christ's hope. Let's show it. Take time to pray that God would provide our group with opportunities to share the hope of Christ this month.

—[**SERMON REVIEW**]—

- Nothing attacks hope in our lives like suffering. We all suffer, some more than others, but sooner or later it happens to us all.
- Victor Frankl discovered that life only has meaning if there is a hope greater than one's suffering. To put it another way, whatever you put your ultimate hope in determines how you face life now
- Followers of Christ have a hope that transcends this life, making it possible to endure this life!
- As followers of Jesus our circumstances should not affect our hope. It should be the other way around. Our hope should affect our circumstances!
- Peter says that you and I are going to get everything Jesus deserves because He took for us everything we deserve! We are going to receive the full extent of our salvation - the full realization of what it means to be a son or daughter of God. It's not God pinning a medal on our chest, it is the full inheritance of being his child!
- Jesus' joy was knowing that his suffering and death would result in the living hope that we would pass from death to life.

—[**NOTES**]—
