

Weekly Cell Guide

Leader's Copy

Series - A Counter-Cultural Life
Topic - Living in Hope (1 Peter 1:1-12)

Date - 30-AUG-2020
Speaker - Snr Ps Ben Lee

WELCOME [15 min]

You may want to look up the following websites for *icebreakers* suitable for your cell.

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)

WORSHIP [15 min]

You may select songs like

1. Purify
2. In Christ Alone

WORD [45 min]

Spiritual Objectives

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Refresh our understanding of what Christian Hope is,
2. Reaffirm our commitment to rely on this Hope for our lives, and
3. Rejoice because of this Hope even when life is hard.

Sermon Summary

The following are the key points of the sermon:

1. We are temporary residents on a faith journey, strangers in this world but chosen and called to live for God!
2. We have a living Hope because Jesus defeated death and rose again. This Hope gives us joy for today even when life can be hard.
3. We know that we are being prepared for glory in a future secured in Jesus Christ.
4. We are heirs to a living Hope foreseen by the Prophets in the Old Testament and envied even by the angels. Our response is to love Jesus, live for Him and take His message everywhere we go.

Sermon Recap (Full Summary)

We are starting a new message series titled 'A Counter-Cultural Life.' This series, which is based on the letter of 1 Peter, will equip us to live a life that neither compromises with the culture nor retreats from it. 1 Peter was written at a time when life was not good as a Christian, living under Roman rule with its pagan roots which underscored the conflict of cultures at that time. There are parallels today of the strong influences working in our world counter to the values we hold as Christians. It is totally counter-cultural to live with hope when life is hard. In 1 Peter 1:1-12, there are discoveries on how we do that.

1. **We are temporary residents** (vv 1-2)

We live in a land under the influence of an enemy power. As Christians, we are temporary residents on a faith journey. We are strangers in this world, and this is not our home. We do not belong in this world as we are citizens of God's eternal kingdom. We follow Jesus and as believers, we are called to a different destiny. We are chosen by God and called to live for Him!

2. **We are born into a living Hope** (vv 3-5)

Hope in the Bible is not a "cross your fingers and hope it's true" kind of belief. It refers to that which is real, but not yet fully fulfilled. Christian Hope is real because it is founded on something real that happened.

- We are born anew to a hope founded on Christ's Resurrection. We can face today with an entirely different perspective. We have a living Hope because Jesus defeated death and rose again.
- We can be certain of our future as we have a never-ending inheritance waiting for us. An inheritance and a hope that death and disease cannot touch. Something that is glorious that makes all pain worth it. See 1 Corinthians 2:9.
- Our journey is protected by God's power. This Hope gives us joy for today even when life can be hard. We expect tensions but we can also endure them. As we experience God working through us, our faith is built up and our hope is strengthened.

3. **We are being prepared for Glory** (vv 6-9)

Life is training for eternity. God is preparing us for the life to come. As Christians, we expect trials in our lives. The journey is difficult with some rough places where we will suffer – see 2 Corinthians 4:16-17.

Parts of the journey are hard to see and the storms in life may throw us off balance. Even through these dark times, Jesus sees us! Trusting Jesus is how we look beyond the brokenness of this life. The end location of our journey is secure. Jesus encourages us to continue and we can finish the journey despite the obstacles we may encounter along the way. We know that we are being prepared for glory in a future secure in Jesus Christ!

4. **We are heirs of an ancient Hope** (vv 10-12)

We are heirs to a living Hope foreseen by the Prophets in the Old Testament. They predicted that the Messiah would experience suffering and glory – see Isaiah 61:1-3. We are heirs of the things they longed for. As Christians, we are heirs of all their hopes! See Luke 10:23-24. Our salvation was envied even by the angels. We are privileged to enjoy this reality of a personal relationship with a Saviour even as we go through the earthly trials of life.

We live in a world of fragile hopes. But the Hope that Jesus Christ offers is different. It is living. It is sure and eternal. Our response is to love Jesus, live for Him and take His message everywhere we go.

Discussion Questions

1. **What is the difference between “hoping for good weather for an event” and “our Christian Hope”? What is our Christian Hope? (Recap)** [10 min]

Leader’s Notes:

In everyday language, people use ‘hope’ to express a desire. For example, I hope to get the job. We have no guarantee that when we hope in such things, it would happen. It is just a longing with no certainty. There is nothing wrong to hope for good things in life, but this kind of hope never gives a guaranteed outcome. The Hope that the Bible speaks about is not “cross your fingers and hope it’s true” kind of hope. It is true, real and guaranteed. This Biblical hope talks about a promise that has yet to be fully fulfilled.

Leaders can reiterate the main points about our Christian Hope as taught in 1 Peter 1:1-12. It is founded on Jesus’ resurrection and points us to a guaranteed future where God will make all things new. We have a never-ending inheritance waiting for us in the future. Hence, we can have hope and the joy that such hope brings, even when life hurts. As Christians, we are called to live in gratefulness for this salvation and bring healing to a hurting world.

(See the resource: “What is so important about Christian Hope?” by John Piper at <https://rb.gy/1bhl28>)

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to the Next Question)

The Christian Hope is about looking to Christ and His promises and holding fast to them. Yet, we face difficulties in our lives. Question 2 brings up the issue of trials in our lives and discusses on the Biblical understanding of their presence.

2. **Read 1 Peter:6-9. God uses trials that come our way to refine our faith. Are you facing any trial right now for following Jesus? Share it with the cell and as a group, talk through how understanding this passage and God’s promises can transform this suffering? (Relate)** [15 min]

Leader’s Notes:

Members are encouraged to talk about the obstacles and attacks that they may face because of their faith in Christ. It is important for Christians to share the highs and lows in their spiritual walk within a safe and trusted fellowship. Leaders can encourage members to share of their struggles in their faith journeys, reminding members to refrain from jumping in with ‘solutions’ to fix the problems.

Our life today is a school where God trains us for our future destiny with Him in eternity. The Bible often uses the imagery of gold being refined as a picture of what God does in our lives. Thus, the presence of trials in our lives. When faced with trials, our focus would commonly be about changing the circumstances that are troubling us. To have God’s perspective on the difficult things in our lives would be to see those things through the lens of God’s design, purpose and ways.

See the article “God’s purpose behind your problems” by Rick Warren on the ways God uses problems in our lives, <https://bit.ly/3jq7WaX> . The Bible has the example of the many trials faced by Joseph and how God’s promise has been fulfilled in his life – see the

article "Seeking to be refined by your problems" in Christian Post at <https://bit.ly/2ELOvfg>.

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to the Next Question)

Having examined what the Christian Hope is about and that we expect to have trials as believers, members can then reflect about our Hope and discuss what the implications of this Hope have on our lives.

- 3. Read 1 Peter:10-12. We are heirs to an Ancient Hope. This is a living Hope. How does this help us to live a Christ-centred life now? How can we rejoice even amid difficulties? (Reflect, Response) [20 min]**

Leader's Notes:

God has a plan to save mankind from sin and the selfish, prideful living. We are living an epic life that not even angels fully understand. Our Hope is real, certain, sure, with a glorious future and living. Therefore, we can overcome our anxieties even when life throws up difficulties or when we encounter hostilities for our beliefs, because our hope is not in anything earthly (which is fading away), but on that which is eternal!

Our response is not to take our faith or what Jesus has done for us for granted. We must surrender our lives to Jesus and be whole-hearted towards God.

Transition (Wrapping Up, Vision Casting to Cell & Closing the Discussion)

This message series is critical for RiverLifers because we can face sneers and ostracism when we stand for what is right and true. We need to prepare ourselves (as the Bride) for the End Times when we expect to encounter more hostility. This hope in a future glory with Jesus Christ helps us in our Christian walk beyond mere suffering and is vastly different from living lives based on things that do not last and will ultimately prove unreliable.

WORKS [10 min]

Let's pray for the following pointers:

1. COVID-19 Situation
 - Pray for Christians to continue to grow and share the good news during this period.
 - Pray for the recovery of our economy, locally and globally.
 - Pray for the decrease in the total number of infections in the community and dormitories.
2. Pray to commit to live a counter-cultural life based on what God values.
 - For joy in the living Hope that God has given us.
 - To love Jesus and to live for Him.
 - To take God's message everywhere we go.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access the latest Bible Reading Plan by visiting www.riverlifeorg.sg/brp.
2. **We Belong 2020.** For those of you could not join us last weekend – you can now catch up on the e-Gathering online at rlc.sg/wb2020-catchup. We have also launched our exclusive Sticker Pack for WhatsApp & Telegram featuring some of our beloved pastors and leaders. The links are provided in the session videos.



"HONOUR GOD WITH EVERYTHING YOU OWN;
GIVE HIM THE FIRST AND THE BEST."
PROVERBS 3:9 (MSG)

Give Digitally

Here are two cashless ways to give your tithes and offering.

1. PayNow

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app.
Scan this QR code on the right.

2. Interbank Transfer

RiverLife Church Bank Account:
DBS Autosave 029-902431-0
Bank Code: 7171
Branch Code: 029

SCAN ME



Church Vision

"A radiant disciple-making church catalysing Kingdom transformation in our communities and the nations."

Mission

We exist to make disciples who behold Christ and reveal Him.