

## Hope Vision Lesson #06

*Engaging people  
Leading them into a relationship with Jesus Christ  
Declaring hope, healing, and redemption.*

### Text:

1 Peter 1  
See also:  
Romans 12.9-21  
Hebrews 6.13-20

### Leader Notes:

Be sure to start your time of discussion this week with a review of the Spiritual Growth Opportunities people chose to undertake during this past week. Here are the instructions, for your review:

Look through the list of Spiritual Growth Opportunities. One of the ways we lead others into a relationship with Jesus Christ is to be sure we are also growing closer to him.

Pick one of the opportunities on this list that you think to be an easy one for you, perhaps one you have practiced before or are currently practicing. Then pick one that would be the most difficult for you to do or furthest outside your comfort zone.

Spend time this week practicing both of these two opportunities you have selected. Be prepared to share about your experiences during your next group meeting.

I have included questions specifically related to this exercise in the first part of the “Discussion Questions” section.

This week we will begin to look at the last of the three sections of the vision. The above listed vision is the final draft, so this week we are looking at “Declaring hope, healing, and redemption.” We will focus on the idea hope this week, and then look at the other two next week.

We need to be a people of hope. I am surprised at how depressed Christians sometimes act and then wonder: How is a world looking for the power of God working in their lives going to be influenced by people who frankly, do not look like they are in much better shape than people without God. As a preacher I once heard said about what he termed “mopey” Christians: “You just want to ask them, does it hurt much?” He followed that up with: “Why would I trade my brand of misery for yours?”

That may be painting with too broad of a stroke, but I do think it is accurate that if the people of God cannot live lives of hope and joy, we have little to offer the world.

Because of this, I want us to take a hard look this week at the things that cause us fear and worry and then try to answer how we find hope in those specific circumstances. This may be a little open ended, because I certainly cannot tell you each concern your group members have, so cannot give you specific response to each. I have listed a primary passage (along with a couple of secondary ones) that will lay a foundation as we think about those things that steal our joy.

### **Suggested Group Meeting Agenda:**

Use the “Discussion Questions” to review and evaluate the exercise that was to be done during the week this past week.

Continue your discussion time with the scripture reading and questions listed below.

Be sure to assign the “To Do For Next Week” assignment to your group. The ideas that are collected this week will serve as our basis for how we attempt to move forward in declaring hope and healing to others.

Close with a time of prayer.

### **Discussion Questions:**

Review of last week’s “To Do This Week” section:

- What reactions do you have to doing the Spiritual Growth Opportunities this past week?
- In what ways was the exercise easy?
- In what ways did you struggle with them, either doing them or the reaction you had to them?
- How was this exercise a benefit to your spiritual growth this week?

Questions for this week:

- How does fear and worry prevent people from following Jesus like they should?
- What causes you the most worry?
- What causes you the most fear?
- Studies show that people who claim to be Christians have the same struggles with fear and worry as people who do not profess faith. Why do you think this is the case? Why should people of faith score much higher on the “Lack of Fear and Worry” scale?
- Read 1 Peter 1.
- What gives you hope? What does Peter say about the hope we have? What does Peter say about hope and struggles and how they are connected?
- What are some specific ways we can set our hope on the grace to be revealed at the coming of Jesus?
- How does our relationship and how we treat one another relate to the hope we have? Is this surprising to you? Why or why not?
- How does hope work against worry and fear? How can we show the hope that overcomes fear and worry to people who have little hope around us?

- How does the salvation found in Jesus and the hope we find described in scripture address the specific fears and worries you wrestle with? Give examples of how this is the case.

### **To Do For Next Week:**

During this study, we have talked about individuals we come in contact with regularly who may be searching for some answer to a struggle they are facing.

This week, think about the people you see on a regular basis and ask yourself: “What is the biggest need this person is facing in their life at this moment?”

Next week, come prepared to answer that question. You don’t have to say who the person is or the specifics, but be ready to share the general struggles that 2-3 people around you face.

We will share those struggles in an attempt to better identify ways we can be a people who declare hope and healing to the people around us.