

1. A need for hope beyond this brief mortal existence

- a) 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 Why is hope beyond this brief mortal existence so vitally important?
- b) Without the hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord, what is the only logical approach to this earthly existence? 1 Corinthians 15:32b
- c) Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 What was Solomon’s assessment of a life of pleasure seeking?
- d) Who has a testimony of trying to live for one pleasurable experience after another? When did you realize you needed more from life than that?
- e) How does a sense of hopelessness impact every aspect of a person’s life?
- f) What counsel would you give to a friend who is feeling hopeless?

2. Finding hope in the promise of Jesus

- a) John 14:1-3 – What precious promise did Jesus give to His disciples?
- b) Acts 1:9-11 What word of reassurance did angels give to the apostles as they watched Jesus ascend into heaven?
- c) What was the expectation of the disciples when Jesus ascended to heaven 40 days after His resurrection?
- d) Four times in the Book of Revelation we find this promise of Jesus: “I am coming soon!” (Revelation 3:11, 22:7,12,20). Why has it taken so long?

- e) Read Matthew 25:1-13 From whose perspective was there a delay in the coming of the bridegroom?
- f) How can we keep our hope strong even when there is an apparent delay in the return of Jesus?

3. Experiencing eternal life now

- a) 1 John 5:11-13 What is the testimony of the apostle John regarding eternal life?
- b) What sayings of Jesus reinforce this idea that eternal life begins now? John 6:39-40, 10:27-28 etc.
- c) Is eternal life a length of existence or a quality of existence with God? Or both? John 10:10
- d) What are your thoughts and feelings about a life forever with God in a new heavens and new earth where righteousness dwells? (2 Peter 3:13)

4. Receiving the gift of immortality

- a) When do those who have fallen asleep in Jesus wake up to experience a continuation of their eternal life with God? 1 Thessalonians 4:13-15
- b) What is the “mystery” the apostle Paul described in 1 Corinthians 15:51-55?
- c) What are your thoughts and feelings about that day?

