

Transform Your Nature, Using Jesus as Your Example: *Hope*

LESSON AT A GLANCE

Facilitator Notes:

- Sermon clips can only be found in the [NAC USA mobile app](#) and in the [link to the right](#).

I wonder...

- What is Christian hope?
- What do we hope for?
- What do Christians base their hope on?

I believe...

- Christian hope is our confident expectation that God will fulfill His promises for our future. (Catechism Q&A question 40)
- Our hope is for the return of the Lord Jesus and that we will be taken with Him. (Catechism Q&A question 555)
- Our hope is founded in the offer of salvation and the offer of eternal fellowship with God. (Catechism Q&A question 247)

Materials:

- IGNITE Bible
- Catechism Q&A
- Chief Apostle sermon clip 37, Christian Hope <http://subspla.sh/mefanmd>
- Dry erase board or chart paper, markers

References:

- Bible verses: Luke 8:40-48, Romans 5:1-5, Romans 8:38-39, 1 Corinthians 13:13, Hebrews 6:18-19, 1 Peter 3:15
- Catechism Q&A questions 40, 247, 549, 550, 555
- Catechism Q&A page 252 (9th Article of Faith)

PRE DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS AND STUDENT (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)

How are a hope and a wish the same? How are they different?. Join us tomorrow for small group at _____ when we'll have a discussion about hope.

POST DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)

Facilitator Notes:

- Please keep the main message intact, but feel free to add local information as necessary.

Dear Parents,
 This week the "I Wonder...." questions are focused on the importance of hope in the Lord and our future with Him. The students referenced the story of the woman that touched the hem of Jesus' garment, found in Luke 8. The discussion focused on not only the woman's faith in Jesus' ability, but also her hope that He would heal her. In the upcoming week, please discuss with your students what you hope for in your own life.
 As always, if you have questions about the topic, please feel free to contact your Youth Leaders.
 Your Youth Leaders

SUNDAY SERMON REFLECTIONS (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.

- What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?
- What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?
- So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?
- Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

HOOK (up to 15 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.
- Write the definitions on different whiteboards / poster boards if possible to allow for longer lists.
 - Wish: to have a desire for something
 - Hope: to expect with confidence
- Make sure the definitions are large enough for the students to see.
- Give the students enough time to read and reflect on the two.

- How are you and how are you feeling today?
- Who would like to share their point to ponder or call to action from last week?
- Write both definitions for "hope" and "wish" on the board. Have the students read the definitions to themselves and try to come up with the differences and similarities between the two. After the students have read the definitions and come up with their answers, allow the students to shift into groups of two or three and share the differences and similarities between the two.
- As a group, have students create lists of things they wish for in their lives. Some examples might include: winning the lottery, getting a pony, etc.
- Once you have created the "wish list," create a list of things the students hope for. Some examples might be: that my friend's surgery goes well, that dad gets a new job, etc.
- Discuss with the students the differences between the things they wish for and the things they hope for. Make note that both lists are compiled of future things. These two words are often used interchangeably so, the students might not see the differences between the two lists. Explain to them how their "hope list" contains things that are usually deeper desires and have a good probability/expectation of happening.

SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

Facilitator Notes:

- Preview the "I wonder" questions with the students.

I wonder...

- What is Christian hope?
- What do we hope for?
- What do Christians base their hope on?

LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- 9th Article of faith (portion): *I believe that the Lord Jesus will return as surely as He ascended into heaven and that He will take to Himself the firstfruits of the dead and living who have hoped for and were prepared for His coming;*
- For the sake of preparing for the discussion, some full Bible passages are included in the facilitator guide. However, in the actual discussion with the students, it is encouraged that the facilitator look up the passages in a physical Bible along with the students to reinforce the importance of using one's Bible and Bible literacy.

Student Question #1 What is the difference between regular hope and Christian hope?

Wishing and hoping for things are often difficult to separate. As Christians, our main hope for the future is for the Lord to return. We can have hope in this because the Lord has promised He will return. Our hope in this comes from a firmly rooted belief and expectation in His promise.

Sometimes when we hope for something, there might be uncertainty in what we are hoping for because of the likelihood for it to actually happen. When we discuss spiritual and Christian hope, we have a certainty in that hope. We have hope in what we confidently expect for our future.

Read, or ask a student to read, 1 Peter 3:15

- *Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you...*

According to 1 Peter 3:15, we're expected, as Christians, to be able to speak about our hope in God's promises.

Have the students read, individually or as a group, the following:

- Ask a student, or multiple students, to read Luke 8:40-48 (not included due to length)
- To get more context on the passage that was just read, ask a student to read the "**Flashpoint – Hope in the hem**" on page 1058 of the IGNITE Bible
 - Ask the students:
 - How did the woman demonstrate hope?
 - What do you remember about faith from the previous discussion (T4)? What is the difference between 'hope' and 'faith'?
 - While 'hope' and 'faith' are similar, they are indeed different.
 - In 1 Corinthians 13:13, Apostle Paul lists them separately to indicate that they are different.
 - *And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*
 - Hope is future-oriented, you can't hope for something you already have.
 - Faith and hope are complementary. Faith is grounded in the reality of the past; hope is looking to the reality of the future. Without faith, there is no hope, and without hope there is no true faith.
- Read Romans 5:1-5 (not included due to length)
- Continue by reading the "**Flashpoint – Hope**" on page 1176 of the IGNITE Bible

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ask the students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have there been times where the situation started to feel hopeless, but you wrestled to find hope that God would get you through your situation? <p><u>Student Question #2</u> What are some concrete actions we can do if we, or a friend of ours, starts to feel hopeless?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pray <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ That God reveal Himself more clearly ○ That we are open and aware of His presence and His promises ○ To calm our anxious hearts ➤ Read <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The promises in scripture ➤ Reflect <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How God has been consistently faithful and true over the course of history ➤ Know <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nothing can separate us from the love of God (ref. Romans 8:38-39)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When asking about our future, the students will naturally come up with answers such as the Lord's return. To deepen their understanding of hope, share a few examples to get ideas started. An example could be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I hope the Lord will return <i>during my lifetime</i> and that I will not have to suffer physical death. 	<p><u>Student Question #3</u> How can strong hope keep us motivated in our lives?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What are things that we spiritually hope for in our lives and for our futures? ➤ Now that we have a better understanding of spiritual and Christian hope, are there things we originally said we hoped for that could be changed to just a wish? ➤ Having hope in the Lord gives us strength to overcome our obstacles in life. We defined Christian hope as having a strong expectation in our future with the Lord. How does it strengthen our hope in the Lord knowing He will always fulfill His promises? <p>As Christians, our main hope for the future is that the Lord will return during our lifetime and that we will join Him when He returns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In the 9th article of faith, we focus on the importance of our hope for our future. We hope that we will have eternal life with our Lord and that we can partake in the wedding feast together. What are some ways we can strengthen our hope in our future? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ After the students have contributed some answers, summarize and/or clarify by saying something like: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Spiritual disciplines (prayer, worship, scripture, silence, and solitude) help us stay connected to God and through them, He can strengthen our hope.</i> ➤ One of the reasons we can have such a confident expectation is that God is not able to lie. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hebrews 6:18 <i>...it is impossible for God to lie...</i>

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? (up to 15 minutes)

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Wrap up the lesson with

- If time allows, watch Chief Apostle sermon clip 37, Christian Hope. <http://subspla.sh/mefanmd>.

Close with the "I Believe..." statements

- As you review each statement, stop and check in with the group to be sure there are no misunderstandings or misconceptions.
- Allow the students to state an "I Believe..." statement for each of the "I Wonder..." questions in their own words.
- Remind the students that on their Confirmation day, they will or have already promised and committed to "remain faithful to You until my End".

I believe...

- Christian hope is our confident expectation that God will fulfill His promises for our future. (Catechism Q&A question 40)
- Our hope is for the return of the Lord Jesus and that we will be taken with Him. (Catechism Q&A question 555)
- Our hope is founded in the offer of salvation and eternal fellowship with God. (Catechism Q&A question 247)

A Point to Ponder....

- How are 'hope' and 'faith' similar? How are 'hope' and 'faith' different?

A Call to Action...

- This week, think how you would respond if someone asked about the hope in your heart and you had to explain/defend it (as referenced in 1 Peter 3:15). Actually articulate and right down a sentence, or a few, explaining your hope in Jesus Christ. Consider asking someone in the congregation to help articulate it with you if you need assistance.

Weekly Reflections

What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?

What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?

So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Point to Ponder.....

Call to Action.....

Transform Your Nature, Using Jesus as Your Example: *Hope*

<p>Have you ever wondered...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What is Christian hope? ➤ What do we hope for? ➤ What do Christians base their hope on? 	<p>I believe...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Christian hope is our confident expectation that God will fulfill his promises for our future. (Catechism Q&A question 40) ➤ Our hope is for the return of the Lord Jesus and that we will be taken with Him. (Catechism Q&A question 555) ➤ Our hope is founded in the offer of salvation and eternal fellowship with God. (Catechism Q&A question 247)
<p>References:</p> <p>Bible verses: Luke 8:40-48, Romans 5:1-5, Romans 8:38-39, 1 Corinthians 13:13, Hebrews 6:18-19, 1 Peter 3:15; Catechism Q&A questions 40, 247, 549, 550, 555; Catechism Q&A page 252 (9th Article of Faith)</p>	

1. What is the difference between “regular” hope and Christian hope?

2. What are some concrete actions we can do if we, or a friend of ours, starts to feel hopeless?

3. How can strong hope keep us motivated in our lives?

Point to Ponder: How are ‘hope’ and ‘faith’ similar? How are ‘hope’ and ‘faith’ different?

Call to Action: This week, think how you would respond if someone asked about the hope in your heart and you had to explain/defend it (as referenced in 1 Peter 3:15). Actually articulate and right down a sentence, or a few, explaining your hope in Jesus Christ. Consider asking someone in the congregation to help articulate it with you if you need assistance.