

## Lives Marked by the Cross: Hope

March 29 & 30

Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, He confirmed it with an oath. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. (Hebrews 6:17, 19a)

### Personal/Small Group Reflections

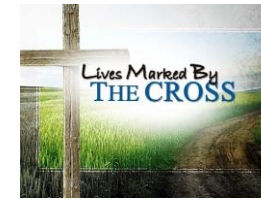
- **Hope**... how would you define it?
- Explain a time when hope was part of your life experience.
- Discuss the connection between “hope” and a “promise”.
- Discuss the connection between “hope” and authority to get it done.

**“Hope”**: (verb) to desire with expectation of obtainment or fulfillment, to expect with confidence (syn: trust, expect, look).

### Large Group Teaching

- *Lives Marked by the Cross: Mercy, Compassion, Service, Restoration and Hope.* How do these connect?
- Hope is connected to expected outcomes tied to identity, authority and promises. Hope is found in actions... hope is found in Christ... and Christ working through His Church.
  - i. **OT: Ps. 25:1-7** (What realities of God’s actions and character does the Psalmist reference? What about us?)
  - ii. **NT: Hebrews 6:13-20a** (The certainty of God’s purposes and promises... Abraham... the Church).
  - iii. **Gospel: Mark 4:35-41** (Hope is tied to the identity and authority of the One who makes the promise... and who ultimately *gets it done*).
  - iv. **Other Readings:** Col. 1:15-23, Gen. 12:1-4, 7, Gen. 15:1-6, Eph. 4:1-6, Rom. 8:18-25, 31-32, 1 Peter 1:3-5, 13, and 20-25.

**Application:** What does any/all of this have to do with you... now?



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