

HOPE

LIVING WITH CONFIDENT EXPECTATION

WEEK 1:

ALREADY; NOT YET

SERIES DESCRIPTION:

We are people of hope! As Christians we know Jesus walks with us through our joys and sorrows, our times of contentment and our times of pain. Easter is here—and with it the new life we find in Jesus!

BIG IDEA:

When we come together for worship, we celebrate that Christ has been raised from the dead and yet it seems that the fullness of resurrection has not been realized, as we still experience pain and loss.



MEETING STRUCTURE:

Every group meeting is a little different. However, every group meeting should include a few core components such as time to catch up, to practice prayer, to engage with inspirational content, to experience thought provoking discussion, and a time for sharing our personal joys and concerns.

Most groups choose to meet for approximately 90 minutes.

Below is a suggested outline for how to maximize your group's time together. For tips on a successful online meeting, see our Online Etiquette Guide.

Time Allocation (approx.)	Activity
10-15 min	Check-in & Catch-up
2-3 min	Opening Prayer
10-15 min	Video Teaching
45 min	Group Discussion
15 min	Joys & Concerns, Group Planning, & Closing Prayer



SCRIPTURE:

Read each passage of Scripture; taking time to answer the following questions for each Scripture read:

1. What does this passage of scripture say about God?
2. What does this passage of scripture say about humanity?
3. What does this passage of scripture say about the relationship between God and humanity?



SCRIPTURE ONE: ROMANS 8:35-39, NRSV

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.



SCRIPTURE TWO: ISAIAH 6:1-5, NRSV

I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another:

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty."



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- *What is your favorite Easter tradition and why?*
- *What is your favorite part about worship on the weekends and why?*
- *Paul says to the Romans that, "Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ." In what ways or when do you feel most connected to God in worship?*
- *Pastor Scott said in the video that, "Most people come to worship with different motives or reasons...people come longing for help, saying Lord help me, or heal me, inspire me, move me, bless me, fill me, use me, feed me, do whatever you want to me, but whatever you do don't leave me the way you found me..." Why do you come to worship? In what ways has worship changed or transformed you? How do you incorporate worship into your everyday life?*
- *Isaiah is swept up into an overwhelming scene of heavenly worship. The seraphim's songs, shaking the doorpost, declares that "the whole earth is full of his glory" - all of creation full of God's glory! Have you ever had an experience of feeling swept up and overwhelmed by God's glory and presence in worship? What about in creation? Though we don't worship creation (we worship God), how are creation and worship connected?*
- *In what ways does worship cultivate hope in ourselves? In our communities? In our world?*



CHALLENGE:

1. The average person worships about twice a month. Be more than average and worship every weekend this month.
2. Invite someone to attend worship.