



HOPE ENDURES

Bible Study

A topical study of hope
for those who suffer

VIRGINIA GROUNDS

Hope Endures
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HOPE ENDURES

Introduction



Introduction

Hope Endures is a topical study guiding readers to grab hold of hope when in situations of suffering, loneliness, isolation, or a heart wounded by the actions of others.

Years ago, I was asked to write a study for a support group of wives and mothers of inmates. Their responses are listed in the last pages of the workbook.

Those women suffered because of the actions of their husbands or sons. I have revised it for women today who suffer for any reason as there is so much pain in our world. We all need hope.

Perhaps you, or someone you know can benefit from the reminders of God's plan and faithfulness to accomplish his purpose for our good.

If you are a seasoned Bible student, this is old news, but always good for review. If you are a new student of the Bible, I pray your faith and knowledge will grow as you read the scriptures referenced within.

There is no time limit on the study, so you can complete it at your own pace. Divide the lessons according to the time you have to spend on each one. Begin each time of study with prayer.



Lesson One
There is a Plan
Jeremiah 29:11-14

There is a Plan

Hope is future focused. This study will lead us to an understanding of facing our future with a confident expectation of something good. That is what hope is. It is moving toward the invisible with the anticipation of a good result.

Some may say, "But I have no hope. How can I when nothing but pain and suffering are in my life now, so how can I expect something better in the future"?

The answer lies in what the Bible says about the future, and how we respond to it. We begin by looking at the life of the prophet Jeremiah, a man who suffered because of the actions of others. He was rejected, thrown into a pit, threatened with murder, and persecuted because of his obedience to the call of God on his life. God called him to deliver his message to the people of Judah, but they rejected it.

In fact, Jeremiah is often referred to as the weeping prophet because he grieved when the people of Judah would not listen to God's word. They are described as evil and disobedient to God, and Jerusalem lay in ruins.



Jeremiah understood the pain and grief of suffering due to the evil deeds of others, and yet his faith and hope in God gave him the courage to press on in the midst of it all. He looked forward to the day when the people would turn from their wicked ways. Jeremiah had hope!

However, due to the sin and disobedience of the people, they were taken captive for seventy years exile in Babylon. God sent a message for them through Jeremiah. Though the people refused to listen to Jeremiah, and he thought his efforts in vain, he never gave up hope for deliverance of God's people.



Read and Respond

The first chapter of Jeremiah describes the people of Judah as faithless. They committed covenant adultery and were unwilling to repent. Therefore judgment came upon them. Then in Chapter 29, we begin to see God's promise for Israel in a letter from Jeremiah.

Read Jeremiah 29-10-14. According to verse 10, how long would the exiles wait for God's promise to be fulfilled.

What was the promise to Israel from verse 10? What promises of God are given in verses 11-14?

According to verse 12, what three things would the people do?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Then what happens? How can these verses be true for us today. Make your observation from Luke 10:27



Old Way vs New Way

*You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart and with all your soul
and with all your strength
and with all your mind,
and your neighbor as yourself.
Luke 10: 27*

From the Old Testament to the New, the message of hope is given. Seeking God is instructed. Under the columns below, compare the instruction from Jeremiah 29:12-14 with Luke 10:27. Write the similarities, promises, and instruction.

OLD

NEW

Similarities

Similarities

VS

Promise

Promise

Instruction

Instruction



Read and Respond

The Word of God is the same for all generations. His message of hope and deliverance is for all time. From comparing the two passages of the Old and New Testaments, what did you learn for your life now?

God promised to restore the people of Judah as they returned to him in prayer. This means not only turning those in exile back from their evil ways, but bringing them back home - to relieve, refresh, and rescue them. To be exiled means to be removed from a place of familiarity and taken to a place of shame or stark exposure. Explain what that might look like in our culture today.

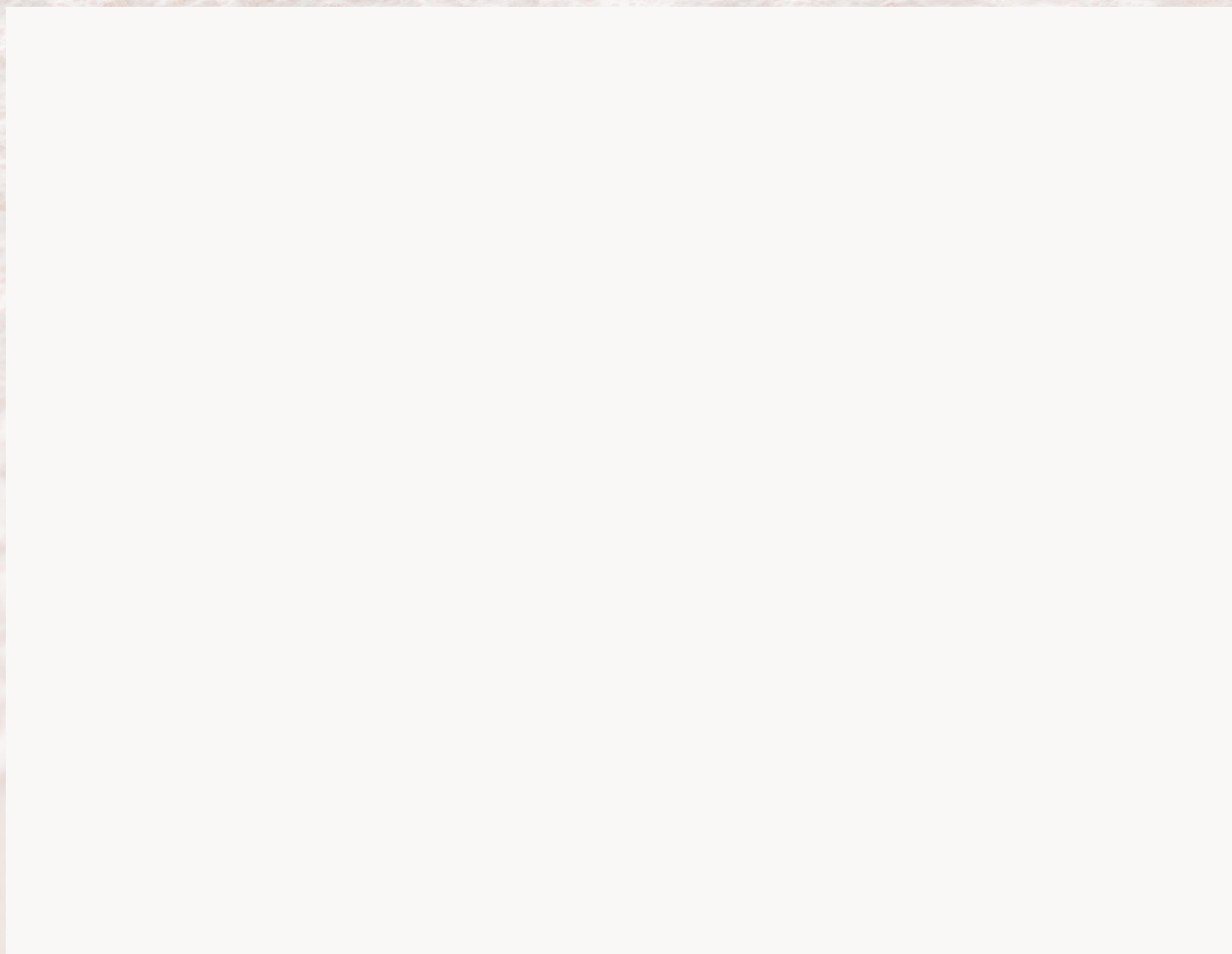
When we seek the Lord with our whole heart and mind, it involves prayer. According to Psalm 71:1-6, what did the Psalmist ask of God and how is God identified?



Read and Respond

God says when we pray, he will listen, and when we search for him with all our heart, we will find him. And in those occasions when we cannot pray as we should, he promises that for those who love and follow him, his Spirit will intercede on our behalf.

Read Romans 8:26-29. What does God promise he will do according to these verses?



*For thus says the LORD:
When seventy years are completed for Babylon,
I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise
and bring you back to this place.
For I know the plans I have for you...*
Jeremiah 29:10-11a ESV

It is interesting to note that just as the people of Moses day were in slavery, and generations later we find God's people once again sent into exile and slavery. However, there is a difference. The Hebrew people in Moses' day were enslaved without a land of their own. Their harsh treatment of abuse was not because of their actions, but because of a cruel foreign leader. Then generations later, when they were sent to Babylon in exile, their sin was the reason. Two different situations but the same consequences. One delivered miraculously, the other promised a return.

We can learn from this that when we feel exiled, isolated, and mistreated, it is probably not because we have done something wrong. Our response while in a difficult place can determine the end result of good as we hope in God, our refuge.

We don't always understand God's plan, but it helps to realize he has a plan for us. It is to fulfill his word, to give us a future and a hope, to direct us back to him and restore those who have been far away from God. We may not be able to see this reality in our circumstances, but we can cling to the truth that God is faithful to fulfill what he says he will do. His plan is to work all things together for good to those who love God and are called according to his purpose. As Jeremiah suffered due to the sins of others, he remained faithful to God in his prayer life and in obedience.

God's word and his work are good. The meaning of hope is the confident expectation of something good. God has promised good to those who love him, and that promise is our hope. He is our God of hope.

When God promised to restore the people of Judah, he wanted to bring them back home to him in better condition than when they were sent away. His purpose in sending them into exile was to show them their need for him, and to prove his mercy and grace in his sovereign authority. Often we react to God's plan and authority in our lives with anger because he is not giving us what we desire or doing things as we want him to within our structure of time. But our hope is in the promise of a better future as we trust in him and respond to his instruction for us.



Review

- In review, what have you learned about God?
- What have you learned about his promises?
- What is our response to be?
- What hope do you find when suffering.



ABOUT GOD



ABOUT HIS
PROMISES



OUR
RESPONSE



Prayer of Hope

Read Psalm 46:1-3. Personalize these verses and pray them back to God.

Father, I thank you that you are my refuge and strength; that I can come to you when I am hurting and weak knowing you will be there with me. And because you have promised to be there when I am in trouble, I will not be afraid, for tomorrow is a new day. I know you will help me through it whatever my circumstances may be. My hope is in you, and I thank you for the hope that is within me through Christ Jesus, my Savior. Amen.



*God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear
though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved
into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble
at its swelling. Selah*

Psalm 46:1-3 ESV



Lesson Two
God's Mercy
Lamentations 3:19-26



Beaten and Scarred

Beaten and scarred. We may feel that way at times. We are like antique pieces of furniture that has been well used, furniture that at first glance may not be much to look at, but in which a keen eye can see the potential. The person who realizes this potential wants to restore the furniture to its original beauty and sends it away for restoration. While the furniture is in the process of restoration, it is stripped bare in the place of strangers. It is made like new before it can be brought to a place called home in better condition than when it left.

We are God's creation, and God sees the potential in us. He does not make mistakes. In the human nature, we all have choices to make in life. When we, or someone we love, chooses to live outside of God's instruction, there will be consequences, and consequences cause someone to suffer. But God always sees potential even when we are stubborn. He may take us to a place we don't want to go, where we will be stripped bare of all false pretenses in preparation for a new life.

It will hurt for a little while, but we will be restored to a better than original condition when we focus toward the promised hope of the future with trust and faith in him through Jesus Christ.



*For thus says the LORD:
When seventy years are completed for
Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill
to you my promise and
bring you back to this place.
Jeremiah 29:10*



God Sees Potential

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.*
Lamentations 3:22-23 ESV

Once again, we will look at the life of Jeremiah. God saw the potential in him to serve his purpose. Jeremiah was a man chosen by God to be a prophet, but he was also a man of affliction. He knew what it was like to be down, discouraged, depressed, and despondent. But he recognized the hope and relief to be found in God's mercy as he trusted Him.

Before you begin this lesson, pray that God will help you hear His voice through His Word, and show how you can experience the newness of His love and compassion each day. Ask Him to help you understand who He is, and what His role is in your life.



Jeremiah remembered his affliction and the destruction of Jerusalem because of the disobedience of the people. He suffered because of the sins of others. Have you ever suffered due to the actions of others? How did God help you through it? If you cannot think of a way you saw God working, how do you think things could have been different. (If you are not comfortable writing your answer, think and pray about it).



Read & Respond

LAMENTATIONS 3:19 - 26.

How did Jeremiah handle his time of crisis and suffering?

What did he bring to mind (or remember) according to verses 22-23?

How often can you experience the steadfast love and mercy of the Lord?
Describe what God's love and mercy look like in your life.

Why do you think knowing the Lord was his portion gave Jeremiah hope?

In the Old Testament, the term “my portion” is used many times in reference to an allotment, inheritance, a share and award from God. The tribes of Israel were given an allotment of land. It is God's provision for them. In biblical terms, a portion is a share given as an inheritance. It is one's destiny. Jeremiah knew that as he carried out God's plan, God would not only provide for that day, but would also provide for the future. His hope was in the Lord to provide what he was lacking in emotional, physical, and spiritual support.



Read & Respond

PSALMS 73:21 - 26

For a better understanding of God's provision as our portion, read Psalm 73:26. What portion of himself does he give when our flesh and heart fail? How long does his portion last?

What is the frame of mind of one whose flesh and heart fail? Psalm 73:21-22

Now look at verses 23-24 again and write what God gives. How can knowing God gives these things give us hope and encouragement?

How is God described?

People will fail us, and life disappoints, but God is faithful. When we are weak and heart heavy, God is our strength, our guide and counsels us through his Word. It is good to be holding on to his presence. As we do, we have a story to tell of his work through our difficulties as he guides us toward a hope beyond the suffering.



Read & Respond

If you hurt because of the sin of another, look again at your answer to the first question in this lesson. What can be done to respond as Jeremiah and the Psalmist did to the suffering in their lives?



When we are suffering because of what someone else has said or done, it is tempting to allow our hearts to become bitter from the pain. Sometimes we are so overwhelmed by the pain, we cannot think straight or make rational decisions. Our hearts are filled with such disillusionment and despondency that our strength is completely depleted. During those times, our first response may be to look for advice in all the wrong places, but the psalmist stated he remained with the Lord. He looked to the Lord for help and God held him up, counseled him, guided him, and received him into his presence. God became his strength! God was his refuge, a place of love and compassion. God was his portion sharing himself with those who were suffering.



Review

- In review, what have you learned about God?
- What have you learned about his promises?
- What is our response to be? What hope do you find when suffering?



ABOUT GOD



ABOUT HIS
PROMISES



OUR
RESPONSE

Blank white rectangular area for notes under 'ABOUT GOD'.

Blank white rectangular area for notes under 'ABOUT HIS PROMISES'.

Blank white rectangular area for notes under 'OUR RESPONSE'.



Read & Respond

As you review, what response is to be made as we look toward the future with hope. Write a practical way these responses can be applied in our daily life.

Example:

When my soul is bowed down within me (when I am depressed), I will remember that God's love never fails or stops. His mercy lasts forever. I can count on it to be given to me new and fresh every morning. I will thank him for it as I awaken each day. I will lean on his strength to carry me and his counsel to guide me through each new day.

Look at II Corinthians 12:7-12. The Apostle Paul was given a thorn in the flesh to keep him from boasting about his accomplishments. We don't know exactly what the thorn was except that it was not good since it is described as a messenger of Satan. Apparently, Paul had to continually fight off the cause of this distress. And since it was a messenger of Satan, it was a constant distraction from Paul's purpose in life. It was a daily struggle to live as he was supposed to live. According to verse 9, what was the response of Jesus to Paul's request that the problem be taken away from him? What did Jesus say was sufficient, or enough, for Paul? What does he give in weakness?

Is there a distraction or weakness in your life that is preventing you from living out your purpose? Have you asked God to remove it and he has not? How did Paul claim the victory over his weakness according to verses 9-10? What can you learn from Paul's experience that will help you understand your present situation?



Prayer of Hope

Father, I love you because you hear my voice and my requests. I love you because you turn your ear toward me, and I shall call upon you as long as I live. When I experience sorrow and distress, I call upon you knowing you are gracious, righteous, and compassionate, even when your answers are not according to my wants. Thank you for the grace that is sufficient to soothe me when struggling with the enemy of my soul. You lift me up and save me from despair. You keep me from stumbling as I call upon you. Amen

Promise of Hope



*But he said to me,
'My grace is sufficient for you,
for my power is made perfect in
weakness.' Therefore,
I will boast all the more gladly
of my weaknesses,
so that the power of Christ
may rest upon me.
II Corinthians 12:9 (ESV)*



Thoughts

God knew Jeremiah would suffer. He knew Paul would suffer. But God knew their potential to be great men of God drawing others to him, therefore, his will was done.

God always answers our prayers. He may not answer in the way we would like, but he does answer; and even though it may not seem so at the time, his way is always best. I remember a time years ago when I was asked to do something I did not want to do then. As I prayed about it, I told God what I wanted to do. He answered my prayer, but it was according to his will - not my own.

As I look back on that situation, I am so thankful God answered my very selfish prayer according to what he knew was best for me, and according to his plans. His ways are always higher and better than ours even when we don't understand the purpose of our circumstances.

But one thing we can be sure of is that God answers prayer. He will provide according to his answer. He will give of himself for us. When that happens, his grace is sufficient, his power is perfected in whatever our weakness may be. We must never lose hope in the power of prayer even when it is answered differently than anticipated.

God sees the potential in each one of us to be who he created us to be. He knows what is needed to draw us into a close personal relationship with him, and he will accomplish his purpose for each of us.



Lesson Three
God's Provision
Romans 5:1-11



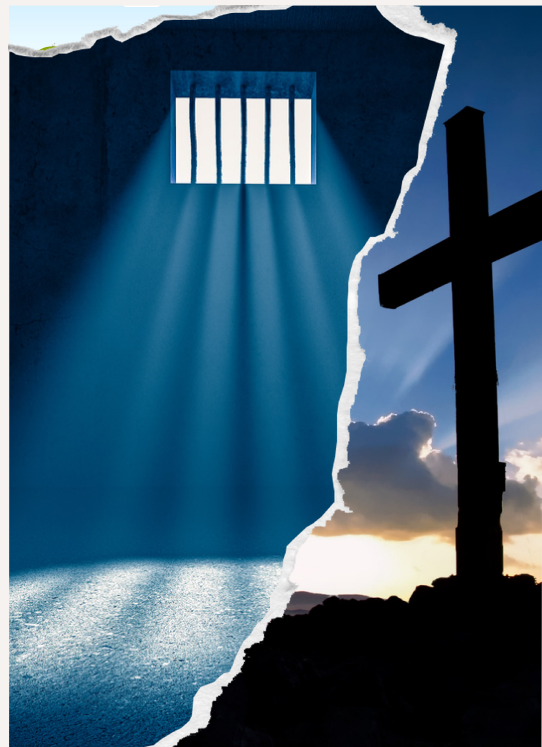
The End Result

Something good can arise from our pain even though we may never know what it is or how far-reaching it may be. God can take the worst that happens in our lives, use it to help others, and to glorify himself - just as he used the suffering of Christ to give us the ability to endure tragedy and trials.

For example, from 1939-1945, a young woman names Ahn Ei Sook was imprisoned and tormented in a Japanese prison. She was a Christian and innocent of any crime, yet suffered the brutality, oppression, and ruthlessness of her captors for six long years. You might ask, how could any good come from all her pain? But Ahn remained true to Christ throughout her ordeal and won many fellow prisoners to him by her example.

Did God cause her suffering? No. But he was there with her providing protection, strength, and courage to endure the circumstances.

Why was this atrocity allowed to happen to a sweet, Christian young woman like her? We may never know, but today her testimony of God's grace and mercy, as written in a book titled *If I Perish*, continues to touch hearts and change lives. She will never know the number of lives encouraged to be strong in adversity and impacted in their faith by her story. Her suffering was not in vain.



Read & Respond

By faith in Christ, we are able to experience peace rather than anxiety in our time of trouble. Not only this, but the difficulties we find ourselves in cause us to respond with strength and courage proving we trust God who gives us hope. Read Romans 5:1-11. What part does hope have in our lives according to verses 1-5?

What does suffering produce? Make a list.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

How did God demonstrate his love for us and what do we gain from it? See verse 8.

When things get bad before they begin to look up, we can live with hope, knowing something good will come from the ashes as we cling to God through prayer, his Word, and our relationship with Christ.

Today's suffering is but a fleeting moment when compared to eternal glory. Read the encouraging words of Paul from Romans 8.

The spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Romans 8:16-18 (NASB)



Read & Respond

We can experience peace in our suffering because Jesus suffered. Therefore, he understands what we are going through and gives us comfort. Read II Corinthians 1:3-7. What are we to do with our experience of suffering?

God promised to turn our mourning to joy, to provide comfort through Christ, and to exchange sorrow for joy. Are you comforted by the knowledge that the suffering of Jesus on our behalf provides peace and eternal reconciliation with God for us?

Do you know someone who is hurting that you can share the love of God with. Sometimes comfort is simply being there with a listening ear. But the greatest comfort is peace with God. When you comfort others having suffered yourself, your suffering is not in vain.

We need to look one step further at God's love and consideration for his children. Even though God made a relationship with him possible through Christ, he gave us free will. We are given a choice to accept what God offers or not. Eternal life and hope in Christ is given to us as a gift of God. According to Ephesians 2:8, we are saved by what and through who?

BY: _____

THROUGH: _____

How are those who are separate from Christ described in verse 12?

Fill in the blanks:

But now in _____ you who once were far off have been
_____ by the _____ of _____.

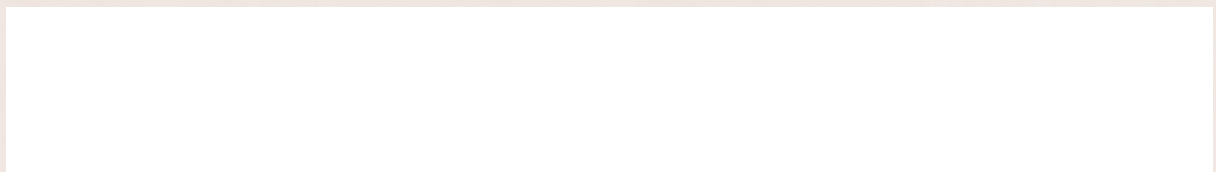


Read & Respond

Read John 19:16-43. Make a list of all the ways Jesus suffered.



Read the glorious resurrection story in John 20. Why was it written? See verses 30-31.



Read & Respond

Who is Jesus according to verse 14?

What is the result of God's great mercy? See 1 Peter 1:3.

A personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ is a gift of God's grace, meaning we don't have to earn the gift or work to receive it. We don't have to be perfect or unstained, but rather, need only to believe and accept the gift of God's grace through our faith and trust in him. By doing so, we are born again to a living hope through Jesus, who was raised from the dead. By this, we have hope for enduring. Jesus is our peace in the middle of a broken world.

Jesus not only died for us, but sits at the right hand of the Father where those who have faith in him will meet him face to face one day. (Ephesians 2:4-8). Has there been a time in your life when you have placed your faith in Christ and accepted the free gift of God for eternal life?

YES: _____

NO: _____

UNCERTAIN: _____

If you have not, or are uncertain, there is no better time than now to secure your eternal salvation. If that is your desire, go to the next page and pray the Prayer of Hope.



Prayer of Hope

Lord Jesus, I need you. I confess that I am a sinner, and I thank you for dying on the cross, shedding your blood as atonement for my sins. I ask you to come into my life as my personal Savior and Lord and I open my heart to receive you. Thank you for forgiving me and giving me eternal life. I surrender my life to you to become the person you created me to be. Amen.

Promise of Hope



*...because, if you confess
with your mouth that
Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart
that God raised him from the dead,
you will be saved.
For with the heart one believes
and is justified,
and with the mouth one confesses
and is saved.
Romans 10:9-10 (ESV)*

Hope is in the forgiveness of Jesus *for* us, and peace is in the forgiveness of others *from* us. Hope endures forever, and we can too as we look to Jesus each day.



Review

- In review, how is Jesus described in the scriptures from this lesson?
- What are the actions and/or words of Jesus?
- What is the result that gives us hope?



JESUS



ACTIONS OR
WORDS



RESULT

Empty rectangular box for writing the answer to the first question.

Empty rectangular box for writing the answer to the second question.

Empty rectangular box for writing the answer to the third question.



Lesson Four
Tender-Hearts Forgiveness
Ephesians 4:32



Peace in Forgiveness

The previous lessons revealed the suffering of Christ. We learned that Jesus was delivered up for death by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God. His death and resurrection were an established time for the intent and purposes of God - to give hope for our future confident of eternal life for all those who believe.

Even though we are not perfect and so often fall short of God's expectations, he demonstrated his love and righteousness for us by forgiving our sins through Christ. He is our hope for today and for the future. Even though his suffering and death seemed senseless and cruel at the time, and was undeserved, it was not in vain. It served a far greater purpose than those around him could comprehend. We still benefit through his sacrifice. We have forgiveness, redemption and the promise of an eternal home with Jesus.

Of course, when we are in a crisis situation, it is difficult to see past the moment, much less determine God's purpose for it. But we can remember God has a plan for a future result that will be good. But because we cannot see how anything good can come from our pain, it is difficult to forgive those who have created the situation.. Yet, we all need forgiveness, don't we?



Read & Respond

In our human nature, our mind may cause us to say things we don't mean. Our emotions may cause us to feel things we cannot control, and our free will may allow us to make irrational decisions. When we become consumed with circumstances and begin to drift away from God, our human nature takes over compounding the circumstances rather than improving them. What then is our response to be to circumstances beyond our control that hurt us.

I believe we will find the answer as we look to Jesus as our model and follow the pattern set by him.

As Jesus hung on the cross, what was his response regarding those who hung him there? Look at Luke 23:34, 43

Forgiveness is to liberate or free from guilt those who have wronged us causing pain. Jesus prayed for those who caused him to suffer, asking God to forgive them. The robbers, chief priests, rulers (representing those in authority over us), and the people had all sinned against God in their treatment of Jesus. Yet God knew it would happen to set us free. Jesus interceded on their behalf with the heavenly Father. That is a tender-hearted forgiveness. Read the following verses and list examples of his forgiveness. How were the people described?

Matthew 6:12, 14

Matthew 9:1-2

Luke 7: 44-48

When Peter questioned Jesus about how much to forgive, what was Jesus response according to Matthew 18:21-22

What a beautiful picture of forgiveness. When we read about the people Jesus forgave, this represents people from all walks of life. They represent us.



Read & Respond

Jesus forgave those who abused him, he forgave those who asked, the paralytic, slave, adulterous woman, and criminal. And he forgives us. He knew his blood shed on the cross was the only way for our redemption.

*And he took a cup,
and when he had given thanks
he gave it to them, saying,
“Drink of it, all of you,
for this is my blood of the covenant,
which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”
Matthew 26:27-28 (ESV)*

*In him we have redemption through his blood,
the forgiveness of our trespasses...
Ephesians 1:7a,b (ESV)*

Read Ephesians 4:31-32 and write the responsibility of a believer. Did God bring someone to mind who needs your forgiveness?

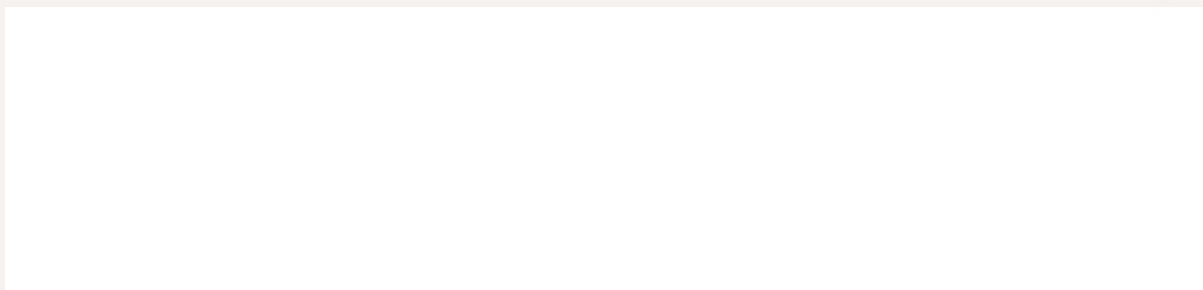
Forgiveness is almost impossible without the help of God, especially when we have been abused. But understanding that forgiveness does not mean reconciliation helps us to find peace in the forgiveness.

God gives instruction and guidelines for forgiving others. Read Colossians 3:12-14, II Corinthians 2:5-11 and Hebrews 12:14-15. List his instruction below.



Read & Respond

When we have been betrayed, it is easy to react out of our pain rather than respond in God's will. When we react, bitterness begins to fester and grow within us like a cancer eating away at our insides. Licking our wounds and feeling justified in our behavior is easier than forgiving, so we continue to go through each day miserable. But as a Christian, the pathway to restoration is to follow the example of Christ. Jesus forgave. God's word tells us to forgive those who have trespassed against us. What is the penalty for unforgiveness, and what are the results according to Matthew 7:2 and Matthew 18:34-35?



God loves you and will help you to love and forgive others if you ask him. As you forgive, you will experience freedom and peace. Your forgiveness may not make a difference to others, but it will impact your life forever. You will experience the peace that only God can give - a peace that comes as you cast your burdens on him and are cleansed from the inside out of all bitterness. Sometimes we just need to get honest with God and others. It is humbling, but worth it.

*Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God
so that at the proper time he may exalt you,
casting all your anxieties on him,
because he cares for you.
1 Peter 5:6-7 (ESV)*

The shell of a pecan and walnut is hard. Under the hard shell is a bitter layer. But once the shell is broken, and peeled away along with the bitter layer, there is goodness found inside - a nourishing meat to enjoy.

God knows our heart. He knows the goodness underneath any hardness and bitterness we harbor inside. Hope transforms what is hard and bitter into a testimony for his glory as we forgive those who have wounded us and fix our eyes on Jesus.



Review

- How do you see Jesus as tender-hearted in this lesson?
- What are the actions and/or words of Jesus?
- What do you learn about forgiveness and how it benefits you?



JESUS



ACTIONS OR
WORDS



FORGIVENESS

Blank white rectangular area for writing responses to the first question.

Blank white rectangular area for writing responses to the second question.

Blank white rectangular area for writing responses to the third question.



Prayer of Hope

Lord, my heart has been filled with bitterness, resentment, anger, and thoughts of revenge toward _____ and the circumstances surrounding us. I confess that I have even been angry with Christian friends who have tried to help. But, Lord, I know these thoughts are harmful and damaging to me, to those around me, and to my relationship with you. These thoughts are not of you and I ask your forgiveness. I willingly forgive _____ for _____ and ask that my heart be cleansed of all thoughts associated with unforgiveness. Fill me with your peace that I may experience the joy and freedom that come with forgiveness. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Promise of Hope



*...fixing our eyes on Jesus,
the author and perfecter of faith,
who for the joy set before
Him endured the cross,
despising the shame,
and has sat down at the
right hand of the throne of God.
For consider Him who has endured
such hostility by sinners
against Himself,
so that you may not grow weary
and lose heart.
Hebrews 12:2-3 (NASB)*



What Others Say Resources About the Author



What Others Have Said

"I had just about given up and didn't think I could make it through another day. Then I received notice about this study. It has been just what I needed." - A Wife

"God continues to provide for me and answer my prayers in such a wonderful and surprising way. Thank you for this study. As usual, God's timing is perfect." - A Wife

"When my fiancé went to prison, it was like a death except there were no flowers, no one coming by, no calls, no words of encouragement. Just when I felt no one cared at all, I heard about this Bible Study support group. It has held me together and kept me going. It has given me hope to endure." - Fiancée

"This study is one that has caused me to realize how much our mistakes affect our loved ones and the people around us. I never realized how much our poor decisions cause our loved ones to suffer. But praise God for the hope and promise of God's restoration." - A husband

"This study must have been written for me because the message is really hitting home right now." A Sister



Resources

Hebrew-Greek Key Study Bible, New American Standard, Chattanooga, TN:
AMG Publishers

Unger's Bible Dictionary. Chicago, IL: Moody Press

Vine's Expository Dictionary.

Zodhiates, Spiros, Th.DI, Ed. Lexicon to the Old and New Testaments



About the Author

Virginia Grounds has served at Prestonwood Baptist Church in many leadership roles since the founding of the church. She has taught Bible Study there for 35 years.

She is an author, podcaster, Bible Study Teacher, Certified Professional Publisher through NFAA, and self-publishing coach as well as a Project Manager for a publisher. She is a Certified AWSA Coach and Speaker. You may contact her at viriniagrounds.net or quickstudies.org. Her email address is vgrounds770@outlook.com and she will be happy to answer any questions about the study or your desire to publish.

She currently resides in Oklahoma with plans to move back to the Dallas area and her home church. As a new widow, she loves spending time with her children and their families.



Life Verse:

“Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” Matthew 6:33

