



Inspire

Just Be...Hopeful

Hope in the Lord

Towards the end of 2020, most of us had hoped that the turning of the calendar to 2021 would mean things would be better. Well, we are almost done with 2021 and it hasn't been much different than 2020. It is so easy to become discouraged and lose hope. The world views hope as almost a wish, or like a gamble. You aren't sure if you are going to get what you hoped for. But Christian hope is different. Anne Graham Lotz defines hope this way, "Biblical hope is absolute confidence in something you haven't seen or received yet, but you're absolutely confident that whatever God has said is going to come to pass."

In the book of Lamentations the prophet, Jeremiah shares his anguish over the nation of Judah's refusal to follow God. He witnessed the destruction of Jerusalem and saw the people carried into captivity. Jeremiah grieves over what has happened (Lamentations 1:1-5). Despite the darkness that surrounded him, he still had hope. In the third chapter, Jeremiah writes beautiful words of hope and expectation not in his circumstances, but in the character of who God is.

Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:21-23

Did Jeremiah's circumstances look hopeful? No! Do our circumstances always look hopeful? Definitely not! No matter how dark and bleak the situation around us looks, we can always turn to God, who's character is as bright and beautiful as the morning sunrise. What do these verses tell us about who God is?

First, we are reminded of the Lord's great love. God is love (1 John 4:8). Who He is and everything He does is out of love. His love is great, huge, enormous, unmeasurable, and unlimited. I need to remember that everything God is and everything He does is out of love, even when what I am experiencing feels unloving.

Next, he focuses on the compassions of God which will never fail. Other translations use the word "mercies." Grace is getting something we don't deserve, such as His unconditional love. Mercy on the other hand is not getting something we do deserve. We deserve punishment and death because of our sin (Romans 6:23) and yet He show compassion and mercy on us day after day, unending.

Finally he mentions the faithfulness of God. Just as the sun rises and sets faithfully each day, God will be faithful in His character. Faithful means steadfast, steady or loyal. Who God was yesterday, He will be today. And who He is today, is who He will be tomorrow.

No wonder these verses were formed into a beautiful hymn of the church. Rather than be miserable by what surrounds us, we can rejoice in who God is. We can sing songs of hope to Him. Indeed His faithfulness is great!

INSPIRATIONAL IDEAS from the Territory

Escondido, CA started a new monthly program, **REAL** (Relationship, Encouragement, Accountability, Laughter) that is held in local coffee shops and restaurants. 20 women attended the first meeting.

Glendale, AZ partnered with CAMEO, the **Concord, CA** Home League and attended their Zoom meetings to get an idea of how to utilize Zoom. They joined with Concord for about a month and then tried Zoom on their own.

Helena, MT started monthly prayer calendars for all the women. On each monthly calendar, birthdays of ladies are recorded, as well as prayer requests, Scriptures to read, and some extra fun "to do's" such as take a prayer walk, call a friend, send a card, etc. The ladies have really appreciated having these calendars.

Henderson United, NV made and delivered chocolate boxes to police officer and firefighters in their community as a thank you for their service.

Lewiston, ID restarted their Women's Bible study. They are studying the book of Acts and their lessons follow along with the Sunday sermon series.

Pasadena, CA holds a weekly hiking group that hikes and fellowships together.

San Bernardino, CA started the "Inscribe the Word" journaling group.

Tempe, AZ hosted a younger adult women's retreat for college age women.. The 6 women who attended enjoyed a great time of worship, fellowship and fun.

Commissioner Colleen Riley—Territorial President of Women's Ministries

Colonel Donna Igleheart—Territorial Secretary for Women's Ministries

Major Beth Desplancke—Territorial Women's Ministries Program Secretary

Be sure to check out our website for more resources: <https://usw-womensministries.org/>

Hope is Like a Sunrise

A sunrise is a message of hope. It is a new day, a new chance to begin again. Gone is yesterday. We can't go and get it back; what is done is done. But a new day begins with fresh opportunities. Today we can choose to make better choices, we can respond differently, we can grow and change to become more like who God wants us to be.

Each day as the sun rises we are reminded of God's great love, faithfulness and mercy. He bestows these gifts on all of us. The best way to remember this is to make viewing the sunrise as a daily part of your routine (great for all you morning people out there). If getting up before the sun is not your cup of tea, perhaps make one of these sunrise crafts to display in your home as a reminder to always have hope, no matter how dark the situation currently appears, because of God's great faithfulness.



Watercolor Sunrise

<https://www.allabouthope.net/projects/2019/8/26/watercolor-sunrise>



Coffee Filter Sunrise

<https://www.123homeschool4me.com/sunrise-coffee-filter-art/>



Paper Sunburst

<http://fourwise-guys.blogspot.com/2012/11/sunburst-card-tutorial.html?m=1>



30 Days of Hope in September

Spend the month seeing what God's Word has to say about being hopeful.

1. Psalm 9:11-20
2. Psalm 33:1-22
3. Psalm 38:1-22
4. Psalm 39:1-13
5. Psalm 42:1-11
6. Psalm 43:1-5
7. Psalm 71:1-24
8. Psalm 119:73-88
9. Psalm 119:113-120
10. Psalm 130:1-8
11. Jeremiah 17:5-18
12. Jeremiah 29:10-14
13. Lamentations 3:21-25
14. Micah 7:1-7
15. Romans 15:1-4
16. 2 Corinthians 3:7-18
17. Colossians 1:24-2:5
18. 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
19. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
20. 1 Timothy 6:11-19
21. Titus 1:1-4
22. Titus 2:11-14
23. Hebrews 6:13-20
24. Hebrews 10:19-25
25. 1 Peter 1:13-21
26. 1 Peter 3:13-22
27. 1 Peter 5:8-11
28. 2 Peter 1:3-11
29. 1 John 2:28-3:3
30. Revelation 22:12-21

