



Sermon Growth Guide

September 20, 2020

The Beautiful Story - Beautiful Hope

Isaiah 51:1-8

Key Verse: Isaiah 51:5

“My righteousness draws near speedily, my salvation is on the way, and my arm will bring justice to the nations. The islands will look to me and wait in hope for my arm.”

Big Idea: Hope expects what faith believes.

Foundations

Welcome to week six of *The Beautiful Story*.

“Hope is the thing with feathers / That perches in the soul,” pens Emily Dickinson, “And sings the tune without the words / And never stops—at all.”

Christian Hope makes the heart sing. The hope of the believer is anchored in the very resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus was foretold for centuries and He was foretelling during His ministry. He spoke of His sacrifice on the cross and of the inauguration of the Kingdom of God in the here and now, eternal freedom for all who believe.

The believer is “imprisoned” by the hope of the gospel. “I’m not optimistic, no. I’m quite different. I’m hopeful. I am a prisoner of hope,” proclaims South African human rights activists Desmond Tutu. That’s how real hope feels. It won’t let us go. Hope keeps our heads above water and our bodies afloat.

This week we study and grow through God’s prophetic pronouncement through the prophet Isaiah about a day coming when “the arm of the Lord” will save the peoples of the earth.

Open and close your time of further study and application in prayer. Ask the Spirit of God to guide and guard your time in His Word.

Understanding God’s Word

What hope-filled future is painted in verse 3?

The word “my” is employed nine times across verses 4–6. Host a discussion on this emphatic proclamation. What’s going on here?

In verse 7, what is the believer charged not to fear? Instead, what ought the believer do?

Applying God’s Word

This week we learn that hope is a source of strength for the child of God. Hope expects what faith believes.

How can you apply the hope of the resurrection to your life this week? How might the ways in which you treat others be directed by your heart being further planted in the hope of the gospel?

Witnessing God’s Word

Think of one person who is unfamiliar with Christian Hope. Take a moment to close your time by praying for that person. Discern an action step you can take in moving toward this person with the hope of heaven this week.