



Small Group Guide | **Week 2**

Hope of the Resurrection

Last week Wright said that Christians often fall into two camps: those who believe the Bible has secret messages that must be decoded to have hope, and those who believe we are going off to a better world, a different world, and that is our hope. Which perspective have you been taught, or have you assumed was true? Is it uncomfortable to rethink your perspectives on ultimate Christian hope?

Watch

Week 2 Video | Hope of the Resurrection

[Session Video](#) (15 minutes)

Read these three Scripture passages aloud:

John 20:1- 3 NIV

¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!” ³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb.

John 20:19-20 NIV

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:19-23 NIV

¹⁹ If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.²² For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.²³ But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.

Head

What is the Hope of the Resurrection? *(5-10 minutes)*

Summarize 3–5 points of the message of this video and/or Scriptures..

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Heart

Reacting to the Hope of the Resurrection *(10-15 minutes)*

1. Wright read an epitaph from a tombstone that expresses the classic belief: “Go home dear friends and leave us here, And let us lay till Christ appears. When Christ appears, we hope to have a joyful rising from the grave.” How does this compare to what you heard or learned before this study?
2. Why would the gospel writers name the women at the empty tomb when women were not considered credible witnesses in that culture?
3. How was Jesus’ resurrected body like our earthly bodies? Different from our earthly bodies? See, for example, John 20:19-20; John 21:12 -15a.

Hands

Living the Hope of the Resurrection *(10–15 minutes)*

Consider how we can live by hope and bring hope to others; practical implications for our world, our community, and our lives; and how Jesus is our model.

1. Wright says that Christ's resurrection is the prototypical event driving a whole new world. A new creation began with Jesus. Christians are both beneficiaries of it and the agents through whom it happens. Living Water should flow out of us as believers (John 7: 38).
2. Name a way Living Water flows out of you, refreshing others.
3. What other things could you do to be an agent of the new creation in your life? your community (work, family, neighborhood, church)? the world?
4. What is one action of hope, love, and humility your small group can take in the next month to bring heaven to earth? Think about a service project as a group.

Conclusion

For Those Reading the Book During this Study

Chapters 3-4 correspond to this week's video.

"The resurrection of Jesus offers itself ... not as an odd event within the world as it is but as the utterly characteristic, prototypical, and foundational event within the world as it has begun to be."

Take Away

What are you going to take away from this study today?

Closing Prayer

Father God, thank You that Jesus is truly risen and alive today! Thank You for the people You placed in our lives who bring Living Water to us. Holy Spirit, help us to notice when we can let the Living Water of Jesus flow from us into the lives of others. In the resurrected Jesus we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Spend the next six weeks memorizing and meditating on one verse, Romans 15:13. Even if your time is limited, this is possible! Consider doing this with your spouse, children, or friend.

Romans 15:13 NIV

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Memory Tip: Write the verse on a notecard, carry it with you, and review the verse frequently. Write the verse on several post-it notes. Place them around your house, and recite the verse when you see them.