



HOPE25

HOPE IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD

“Hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.”

- Romans 5:5 -

Hope 25

A 2024 study by the charity, Tearfund, found that 1 in 2 (48%) of Aussies are hopeful about their personal future. It also found that only 1 in 4 are hopeful about the future of the world with anxieties around war, the economy, pollution, and poverty being the main concerns on our hearts.

In February 2024 a group of Aussie Anglicans met in Melbourne to plan a response to hopelessness in our nation. They began to pray, dream, and explore how ordinary Christians might tackle this problem head on. From this meeting, Hope 25 was born!

Hope 25 is a national movement of Aussie Christians working to share the hope we have in Jesus with our worried world. Church communities around Australia are making a special commitment between Easter and Pentecost 2025 to share hope, host events, run study groups, and create service activities designed to communicate the love of Christ and the hope found in him with people who don't know Jesus yet.

Through this study we'll explore passages in the Bible about hope. We'll look at hope for the hopeless, poor, lonely, anxious, guilty, suffering, and whole world. It's a seven week feast of Scriptures about hope! 😊

Our prayer is that as you work through this study, you'll be inspired to take part in Hope 25. Perhaps the Holy Spirit will inspire you to plan a Hope 25 event. Maybe you'll take part in a Hope 25 initiative put on by your church. However God uses this study in your life, I know it will show you that Biblical hope is not a dream for the future, but a confident expectation of a guaranteed result.

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope!"
(Romans 15:13)*

*David Browne
Gladstone Anglican Church*



Warming up:

When is a time in your life when you have felt hopeless? How did you get through it? (Take time to pray for each other afterwards)

Read: Hebrews 6:13-19a

1. Whose story do vv.13-14 focus on? Whose story do vv.15-19 focus on?
2. Why are these people used as examples of hope?
3. What type of hope is being presented in this passage?
4. What does it mean to you that God's oath and promises are 'an anchor for the soul'?
5. How could this passage help you in the week ahead?

Read: John 3:1-17

6. Who is Jesus talking to in this passage? How does the conversation go?
7. What does it mean to be 'born again'? Why is it important for followers of Jesus to be born again?
8. Where is Jesus encouraging this person to put his trust? Why does his friend struggle to understand?
9. What is Jesus talking about in v.14? (For context, see Numbers 21:6-9)
10. Millions of people draw hope from John 3:16. Why do you think this is?

Rubber hits the road:

Write down the names of at least three people in your life who struggle with hopelessness. Think of at least one thing you could do or say to the people on your list to share the hope found in Jesus with them.

[illegible]

Loving Lord Jesus, thank you that in you there is hope for us all. Thank you that you loved the world so much that you gave up your life for us. Holy Spirit, please help us to hold onto this hope as the anchor for our souls, and share this hope with others. **Amen.**



Warming up:

Have you ever experienced poverty or been close to it? Do you know anyone who has?

Read: 1 Peter 1:3-9

1. What is the first reason that Peter gives for his praise?
2. What does Peter mean when he calls this a **living hope**? What is the foundation of this hope?
3. How does Christian hope differ from the way that people commonly talk about hope?
4. How is our inheritance described? What is our inheritance?
5. Does Peter's language remind you of anything that Jesus said about riches?
6. When can we look forward to receiving this inheritance? How can we be confident in this?
7. What does Peter say is of greater value than gold?
8. If our true riches are our inheritance in God's future kingdom, what does that mean about our worldly wealth?
9. What should be our attitude towards worldly wealth? How does that change the way that we interact with the poor?
10. How might this passage give hope to the poor?

Rubber hits the road:

Take some time to consider all the worldly wealth that God has given you. Are you holding on too tightly to it? Are you open handed and generous with it? What are some practices that you can take up that remind you where our true treasure lies? And what can you do here and now to demonstrate to the world that our true riches are found in Christ, not in the stuff we have and consume?

[illegible]

Generous God, we thank and praise you for the abundant riches of your grace, that you would adopt us as your sons and daughters to be co-inheritors with Jesus of your eternal kingdom. Help us to store up our treasures in heaven and not on earth. Help us to make this hope our firm foundation. Help us to give hope to the poor around us by living with such compelling generosity, that they would know the love of Jesus. **Amen.**



Warming up:

When have you felt most alone, and what helped you get through that time? (Only share what you are comfortable sharing. This is a safe space.)

Read: Psalm 139:1–16

1. What stands out to you in this passage? Is there a particular verse or phrase that speaks to your heart today?
2. In vv.1–4, David marvels at how God knows every thought, word, and action. How does this kind of knowledge bring hope when we feel isolated or misunderstood?
3. In vv.7–10, what do you notice about God's presence? How might these verses offer comfort to someone struggling with loneliness?
4. Vv.11–12 say that even in the darkness, God sees clearly. How can this truth give us hope during times when life feels overwhelming or when no one seems to notice our struggles?
5. Vv.13–16 reflect on how God lovingly created each of us. How does this speak into our identity and worth, especially in seasons of feeling unseen or forgotten?
6. What does this psalm reveal about the kind of relationship God wants to have with us? How is that relationship a source of lasting hope?
7. How does knowing this truth about God challenge the way we think about our own loneliness or the loneliness of others?
8. How might God be calling you to be part of His hope for someone who feels lonely right now?

Rubber hits the road:

What is one practical way you can remind yourself or someone else that God is present and that you are not alone this week? *Examples: Choose a verse from Psalm 139 to keep in your wallet or phone background. Take time to reach out to someone who might be feeling lonely.*

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a template for writing or drawing. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

Thank You that we are never alone—not even for a moment. You are the God who sees us, knows us completely, and surrounds us with Your presence. When we feel forgotten or lonely, remind us that our hope is found in You. You made us with care. You walk with us in every season. And You call us your beloved. Help us to live in that hope—and share it with others who need to know they are not alone. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**



Warming up:

What things make you feel anxious? How do you deal with anxiety?

Read: Luke 15:11-32

1. In Luke chapter 15, there are three parables in a row in which three things are lost. What three things are lost in these parables?
2. What does the younger son ask the father for? Do you think this was normal request? What would the implications be for the father?
3. What happens to the younger son in vv.13-16? Had things gone to plan? What were the consequences of his actions?
4. Are the freedoms and extravagance in this world still empty promises of fun and a good easy life?
5. In vv.17-19 the younger son comes 'to his senses'. What are his new ideas and his new plan? Does he sound anxious?
6. How does the Father respond in v.20?
7. The younger son offers to return as a servant. Does the Father accept this repentant offer?
8. What is the older brother's response in vv.25-30?
9. In vv.1-2 there were two groups of people listening to Jesus. Which of these two groups might represent the two brothers? Why?
10. How do the Father's final words offer hope to those who are anxious about whether or not God would accept and love them?

Rubber hits the road:

Are the freedoms and extravagance in this world still empty promises of fun and a good easy life? Take some time to consider how living life God's way and understanding God's love can bring us true freedom and joy from anxiety.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Loving God, you are relentless in your pursuit of those who are lost and you celebrate with joy and extravagance over those you have found. Touch our hearts with the tenderness of your love. Grant us delight in the mercy that has found us. Lead us to rejoice at the feast of the forgiven sinner where all anxiety is washed away in your embrace.

We pray in your mighty name, Jesus. Amen.



Warming up:

When was the last time you needed to say sorry? Did you say sorry or did you put it off? How did it feel?

Read: Psalm 130

- 1.This psalm is one of the 15 songs of ascents (Psalms 120-134). The Israelites would sing these worship songs together as they journeyed up the hill to Jerusalem. What is the main theme of this psalm?
- 2.Where is the psalmist 'crying' from? What do they mean?
- 3.What do they ask for in v.2?
- 4.What is the answer to the question in v.3? How do you feel about a record being kept of all your sins?
- 5.Where do the people find forgiveness in v.4? What action follows on as a response to the gift of forgiveness?
- 6.In vv.5-6 who are they waiting for and where are they putting their hope? Why is this important?
- 7.Why do you think they are waiting and hoping 'more than watchmen wait for the morning'?
- 8.In v.7, what reason is given for putting our hope in the Lord?
- 9.What does v.8 say God will do? Has this promise been fulfilled? How has it been fulfilled?
- 10.How and why is this song of repentance and forgiveness still important for the church today?

Rubber hits the road:

Take some time to think about the long list of sins that would be on your record "if" God were to keep a record of them. Write a prayer of thanksgiving as you thank him for the forgiveness and unfailing love he has freely given to you. How can you remember to be thankful this week? How can you show him that you are thankful?

[illegible]

Lord, you have always given strength for the coming day; and though I am weak, today I believe. Lord, you have always given peace for the coming day; and though my heart is anxious, today I believe. Lord, you have always lightened this darkness of mine; and though the night is here, today I believe. Lord, you have always spoken when the time was ripe; and though you be silent now, today I believe.

(An excerpt from Celtic Daily Prayer: The Evening Office)



Warming up:

What do you think the meaning of suffering is? How do you think most people deal with suffering?

Read: Romans 5:1-8

1. What do we have through faith?
2. What does it mean to have peace with God? Why wasn't there peace?
3. How was this achieved?
4. What does it mean to boast in the hope of the glory of God?
5. What does it mean to glory in our sufferings?
6. How can our suffering produce hope?
7. Does this mean that all suffering is good? Why or why not?
8. What is the foundation of our hope? What is Jesus' relationship with suffering?
9. What does this tell us about the meaning of suffering today? (Hint: read Romans 8:18-28 and Genesis 50:20)
10. Does this mean that our suffering can be redeemed and bring God glory?
11. How does looking to the cross, and what Jesus endured for our sake, give us hope in the midst of our suffering?

Rubber hits the road:

Take some time to think about how the people around us deal with suffering? Do they find any purpose or meaning in suffering? Or do they presume that it is all meaningless and to be avoided at all costs? How does this message change the way that we deal with our own suffering? How can this help us to walk alongside people who are suffering and give them hope?

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Almighty God, you sent your only Son to die for us on the cross that we might be free from sin and all its' consequences. As we continue to live in a world full of suffering, help us to see that you will one day redeem all suffering. Thank you that by Jesus' suffering on our behalf, you have made this plain to us. Give us all hope for the day of his return, when He will wipe away every tear. **Amen.**



Warming up:

What gives you hope when you think about the state of the world today? (Encourage people to be honest—both about the things that weigh on them and where they find glimmers of hope.)

Read: John 14:1–6

1. What words or phrases from John 14:1–6 stand out to you? Why?
2. Jesus tells his disciples, 'Do not let your hearts be troubled'. What might that mean for us today in a world that often feels troubled?
3. What does it mean for Jesus to be 'the way'? How does this give hope to people searching for meaning, direction, or belonging?
4. When Jesus says he is 'the truth', what truth about God is he revealing? How might this speak into a world full of conflicting messages and uncertainty?
5. Jesus says he is 'the life'. What kind of life is he offering—not just in the future, but right now?
6. In v.2, Jesus talks about preparing a place for us. How does this picture of 'home' shape your understanding of God's love for the world?
7. Why do you think this message of hope in Jesus is for the whole world—not just for a select few? How do we see that reflected in Jesus' life and ministry?
8. How might we live differently if we truly believed that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life—not only for us but for everyone?

Rubber hits the road:

What is one way this week you can share the hope of Jesus with someone else—through your words, actions, or attitude?

Examples: praying for someone who's struggling, having a faith conversation, sharing an encouraging peace of Scripture, inviting someone to church or small group, or just being present and kind.

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In your name we pray, Amen.

‘Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”’

- John 14:6 -



Sunnybank

Anglican Church

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