

One BRMC Small Group Study

There Is Hope

Participant's Guide

Please note that this study guide accompanies the pulpit sermon on 27 December 2020.

Scripture Passage:

Luke 2:22-40

Context:

This is the last Small Group Study of 2020. Instead of the usual Bible study, let us gather for a more reflective and contemplative session. It is good to have some time to process the things that have happened. Life moves so fast that we have no time to deal with any issues or emotions that have built up over the year. So, let us take this session a way to slow down and truly assess our lives so far.

Today, we will first look back over 2020 and share the struggles and blessings that occurred. Then we will look forward to 2021 and share our hopes and prayers for the next year. Finally, we will end the session with prayer. Make yourselves comfortable and prepare your hearts to be open and honest.

The sermon presented us with four points:

1. There is hope in waiting
2. There is hope in worship
3. There is hope in salvation
4. We hope through the Holy Spirit

We will use these three points to guide our time of reflection.

Introductory

1. What is something that made you smile and laugh in 2020.
2. What is something you learnt that you never knew before?

Reflection on the past year

3. What have you been waiting for in 2020?
4. How have you been waiting on the Lord?
5. What role does worship play in your life?
6. How have you been worshipping God in 2020? Are there areas in your life that do not reflect worship to God?
7. What are some areas of opposition you have faced over the last year?
8. How have you come to cling more closely to God and the hope of salvation in Him?

Looking forward to the New Year

9. What are your hopes for next year?
10. How will you allow the Holy Spirit to direct our lives to Jesus, our greatest hope?

Prayer

11. Write down your hopes and prayers for the coming year. Share these with one or two others and make a commitment to pray for each other over the next year. (It should be mutually agreed from the start that these are shared in confidence and not to be divulged to others.)