



# BIBLE READING NOTES

## FINDING OUR HOPE IN JESUS

### PREPARE

During this time of the Covid-19 Pandemic all of us will have been affected in different ways. As Christians our hearts should break for what breaks Jesus' heart and we should mourn with those who mourn. We do this, keeping our eyes on Jesus, and by praying and staying in the truth of God's word we find hope for the future.

**Meditate on what the Bible teaches us about hope from these verses.**

"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 v 13)

"And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you."

(Psalm 39 v 7)

"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."

(Romans 12 v 12)

"For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." (Romans 15 v 4)

"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." (Revelation 21 v 4)





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## BIBLE PASSAGE

<sup>19</sup>..... “What things?” he asked.

“About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people.....”

<sup>25</sup> He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” <sup>27</sup> And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.”

(Luke 24 v 19; 25 – 27)

## EXPLORE

Look at verse 19.

The two disciples called Jesus: “a mighty prophet” and “Jesus of Nazareth.” They don’t refer to Him as the Messiah or King. They had lost hope. Their Saviour and Redeemer was dead, the person they had following so intently for 3 years.

What must it have felt like for these two disciples?

Look at verses 25 – 27.

Why do you think Jesus takes the time to re-explain the scriptures to these men instead of just revealing who He was?





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## RESPOND

Jerusalem was a very chaotic city during and after the crucifixion of Jesus. Read Luke 24:13-14. Cleopas and the other disciple wanted to just get away for a while. We are also living in very chaotic and uncertain times with Covid-19. What things would you say are chaotic and out of control in your life at the moment? What do you do when things in life become chaotic? How do you decompress and handle all the stress of life?

During this time of Lockdown with increasing anxieties surrounding us, where is Jesus in it for you? Where is He on a global level? Where is He on a personal level?

What are some of the dangers of expecting God to act and respond in a certain way? What occurs when your faith is based on how you think God should respond instead of just God Himself?

What practical things could you do to offer a sign of hope to those that you are living with or who are in your block of flats or living in the same street as you?

## PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you that you are our hope and reason for being.

We recognise that we are living in uncertain and unpredictable times, times of immense anxiety and hardship.

Help us to come to you at all times, taking your yoke upon us and placing our fears at the foot of the cross.

Thank you for your promises of hope and peace in all circumstances.

May you fill us afresh with your love so that we can shine brightly for you giving hope to those who are experiencing grief, pain and despair.

**In the name of Jesus, Amen**

