



The Story



creation.fall.redemption.return

Lesson 4 of 4 from Story of the Bible

Glorious Hope (Lesson 4 of 4)

Scope and Sequence

Felt Need: I want to live for today, so I do not miss out.
Doctrine: Christ's return

Objective

Students will look forward to future glory with God and put passing pleasures of this life in proper perspective.

Memory Verse

Revelation 22:20
When is Jesus coming?

Worth Repeating: Your future has already been created, so live for it.

THE FELT NEED: I want to live for today, so I do not miss out.

- What is on your bucket list?
- Lead the student in a process of making their "bucket list." Here are suggestions for the bucket list:
 - o What are your bucket list jobs, jobs you would love to do?
 - o What is on your bucket list for marriage, what do you see your marriage being like?
 - o What is on your bucket list for family, how many kids, where would you live?
 - o What is on your bucket list vacation, places you want to go on vacation?
 - o What is on your bucket list adventure, crazy stuff you want to do and try?
 - o What is on your bucket list for compliments, things you hope others say about you after you pass away?

THE TRUTH:

- I. Hope today is optimism.
 - Many people would agree with the quote, "Enjoy life today because yesterday is gone and tomorrow is never promised."
- II. Hope for the believers is confidence in God's promises.
 - Biblical hope is more than wishful thinking; it is expecting something with confidence.
 - Biblical hope says to the Christian, "Your future has already been created, so live for it."

- III. Biblical hope centers on the return of Jesus Christ (Revelation 22:7, 12, 20).
 - We see in Revelation 22:6 that our reason for hope centers on the return of Jesus Christ.
 - God's promises are all faithful and true; not one of them will ever be forgotten or broken.
- IV. Hope is not without struggle.
 - Show the video "The Marshmallow Test"
 - We know that God saves us and will take us to heaven to be with Him some day, but at times we lose site of the coming future reign of Christ.
 - The world we live in seems to offer so much fun that, if we are honest, we wrestle with FOMO (fear of missing out).
 - Every advertisement we see says, "Live for today, that is all you have" but God says, "Your future has already been created; so live for it."
- V. Biblical truths that give hope.
 - You are not alone (1 Corinthians 10:13).
 - You are not the first and will not be the last to doubt God's promises in a FOMO world.
 - The key to your victory is to remember your future has already been created, so live for it and rest in the promises of God.
 - God has already kept His greatest promise (1 Peter 1:3-5).
 - He gave them mercy when their sin demanded justice.
 - He gave them a living hope and an indestructible inheritance.
 - He reserved a place for them in heaven.
 - He kept them safe until Christ returned to take them to glory.

THE CONNECTION:

- VI. A future already created.
Here is a handful of great and precious promises that we can take to the bank regularly:
 - The Spirit will help us in our weakness – Romans 8:26
 - Death will be destroyed – 1 Corinthians 15:54-55
 - The Devil will be destroyed – Revelation 20:7-10
 - Our bodies will be transformed – Philippians 3:20-21
 - The earth will be made new – Revelation 21:1-4
 - Biblical hope on display

Marie Durand

- Marie Durand remained true to Christ to the end and resisted the temporal hopes of this world to make things easier or better.

THE DECISION:

- Wait patiently for Jesus Christ to come back.
- Read the promises of God often.
- Share God's promises with others.
- Pray the promises of God.

Definitions

Hope: expectation in something with confidence, such as the soon return of Jesus Christ

Checklist

- Power Point presentation

- Blank pieces of paper
- Pencils or Pens
- Equipment to show YouTube Video
“The Marshmallow Test” –
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QX_oy9614HQ

Resources

ESV Bible. Introduction to 2 Peter. Page 1219
For an excellent summary of Marie Durand’s life and the circumstances surrounding her arrest see <http://www.christianity.com/church/church-history/timeline/1701-1800/marie-durand-released-at-last-11630273.html>

Additional Teacher Resources:

For a fun look at kids who need to learn how to hold out hope for a better reward later, consider showing “The Marshmallow Test” –
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QX_oy9614HQ

The Felt Need: I want to live for today, so I do not miss out.

What is on your bucket list?

In 2007, Morgan Freeman and Jack Nicholson starred in a well-known story of two terminally ill men who travel the world to do a variety of things they had always hoped to do before they “kicked the bucket.” The name of the movie, as many of you probably already know, is “The Bucket List.” The movie was such a hit that it was named one of the top ten films of the year.

Today we are going to start by creating mini-versions of your bucket list. I will list five bucket list categories and your job is to try listing what would be on your “bucket list” for that category. Remember that money and time are not limiting factors; these are your hopes, so do not focus on the obstacles and do not write your name on your paper because after you are done writing you will turn in your answers. I will randomly select one answer to read for each category. Your job is to try to guess which person’s bucket list I am reading from.

Teacher’s Note

Lead the student in a process of making their “bucket list.” Each student should have something to write with and a small piece of paper to write on. Here are some starter suggestions for the bucket list:

- *What are your bucket list jobs, jobs you would love to do?*
- *What is on your bucket list for marriage, what you see your marriage being like?*
- *What is on your bucket list for family, how many kids, where would you live?*
- *What is on your bucket list vacation, places you want to go on vacation?*
- *What is on your bucket list adventure, crazy stuff you want to do and try?*
- *What is on your bucket list for compliments, things you hope others say about you after you pass away?*

Feel free to make your own items but keep this section to about three to four minutes; keep it moving and do not allow students to think too seriously about any one item. After you collect all the cards (in a bucket), randomly select one answer for each category and read it Jeopardy style. For example, “This person’s bucket list adventure is...”

The Truth:

I. Hope today is **optimism**.

Everyone hopes that at least one of the items on their bucket list becomes reality. On a scale of 1-10, ten being the most confident, how confident are you that your bucket list will become reality? (Answers will vary.) Hope today is really just optimism.

Each day we wake up with hopes for how the day will go – what we hope to eat, who we hope to talk with, what we hope others will think of our clothes, how well we hope to perform, what grade we hope to get in Algebra, etc. Many people would agree with the quote, “[Enjoy life today because yesterday is gone and tomorrow is never promised](#).” They believe that at best you can be optimistic. Some people call it “the power of positive thinking.” While it can be good to be optimistic, how far can positive hopes really carry a person? When life seems to fall apart, we need far more than optimism to hold it together. We need a greater confidence. We need to be able to take it to the bank.

II. Hope for the believer is **confidence** in God’s promises.

Biblical hope is more than wishful thinking; it is expecting something with confidence. The Christian’s hope is rock-solid confidence in God’s future promises. Think of biblical hope like holding a signed check from billionaire Bill Gates. All you need to do is to wait until the bank opens, and whatever amount is on that check is yours.

For the sake of comparison, think about a different illustration: ice cream. If you love ice cream, what better way is there to end a long, hot day in the sun than by sitting in the air conditioning while you enjoy the largest bowl of ice cream in the world? You have two places you can put your hope for that bowl of ice cream – home or the ice cream store. You may wish you could eat it at home, but you have a problem. You wonder if your dad finished the last bit of ice cream from your freezer last night. This kind of hope could only wish for the best and then go home to see what is actually in the freezer. If you go to the ice cream store, you can be confident of getting the kind and the amount of ice cream you hope for.

Biblical hope says to the Christian, “**Your future has already been created, so live for it.**” This is the difference between worldly hope (optimism) and the Christian’s hope (confident expectation). The beauty of Christian hope is that it is even more reliable than an ice cream store is to have ice cream. That is because Christian hope is built on the unshakable foundation of God’s faithfulness. He will finish what He has started. You can take that to the bank!

Review

For the past three weeks we have been rediscovering the story of the Bible. We saw God create the world and make people in His image, giving them authority to manage it in a way that reflected His greatness. Creation was the story of His glory. In his pride Satan thought he was equal with God. He tried unsuccessfully to steal the Creator’s glory, but he did succeed in luring a whole army of angels and God’s image bearers on earth into a rebellion against God. Rather than destroy all rebels

and start again, God chose to do the unimaginable. He humbled Himself and became a man, even sacrificing His life in our place and for our sin. Through His sacrifice, our sins can be forgiven and the image of God that allows us to enjoy a relationship with God can finally be restored. As good as this is, the story is not finished yet. There is one more chapter yet to be written.

III. Biblical hope centers on the **return** of Jesus Christ (Revelation 22:7, 12, 20).

When Christ rose from the dead and walked out of His tomb, His work was not done. He still has enemies to defeat and loose ends to wrap up. He has promises that are unfulfilled. That is why today we are giving a spoiler alert! We are going to talk about how it all ends. We do not have all the details, but we do have the promises of God about the end of the story. Turn to Revelation 22, the very last chapter of the Bible.

- As God finishes writing the story of His glory in the last pages of the Bible, we see in Revelation 22:6 that our reason for hope centers on the **return** of Jesus Christ. Look first at Revelation 22:6 and pay special attention to what Jesus says about the promises in Revelation. (*Read Revelation 22:6*)
- God's promises are all faithful and true; not one of them will ever be forgotten or **broken**. This lines up perfectly with what we see in Titus 1:2, where Scripture says God cannot lie. Notice this does not say God will not lie; it says He cannot. The faithfulness of God means we can take every single promise God makes to the bank. That should give us all great hope!

Just to put the icing on the cake, God throws in several other promises in Revelation 22:7, 12, and 20 (read).

- What promise does He end on?
 - Christ is coming back quickly.
- Why do you think He said it three times?
 - Christ did not want us to forget or to lose hope when things got hard or did not go as fast as we thought they should.
 - Two thousand years seems like a long time to us. Perhaps we need the repetition to assure us that He really meant what He said.

In response to the promise of Christ's return, the early church had a one-word prayer they often prayed – "Maranatha!"

It means "Come!" The reason they would pray and shout Maranatha was because their ultimate hope was that Jesus Christ would finally and completely fix all that was wrong with this world. He was their solution. He was their hope. All their confidence was in Him. If they were alive today they would tell us, **your future has already been created, so live for it.**

IV. Hope is not without **struggle**.

Show the video "The Marshmallow Test" – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QX_oy9614HQ, a fun look at kids who need to learn how to hold out hope for a better reward later.

- Hope is not something that comes without a struggle as we saw in this video. Today we struggle to keep our hope in Christ. Most Christians know in their minds that God is faithful and that they should hope in Him no matter what

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they are going through. We know that God saves us and will take us to heaven to be with Him some day, but at times we **lose** site of the **coming** future reign of Christ. With no date on the calendar for when Jesus will come, we can tend to live like this life is all we have. This is why a movie like “The Bucket List” would be popular; it hits a common theme, “Live for this life because that is all you have.”

Teacher’s Note

Ask the students the following question, “What actions could tend to show a person living for this life alone?” Encourage teens to think about fun things they could do now that they might regret if they were standing before God five minutes later.

Possible examples:

- Impulse buying for self instead of sharing/giving to God and others
 - Searching out extreme things to be involved in to get a thrill out of life
 - Fun with friends to avoid work given by parents
 - Skipping time with God in the Word and prayer for some other pleasure
 - Not witnessing to friends for fear of how they will respond
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- The world we live in seems to offer so much fun that, if we are honest, we wrestle with **FOMO** (fear of missing out). We want to be loved and accepted, not hated and judged. Temptations to sin really do look fun. People at school are sexually active, cheating, or doing drugs ... and getting away with it. We are bombarded by the “need” to keep up with the trends and toys. Again, if we are honest, the immediate payback of this life looks very appealing on the surface. Every advertisement we see says, “Live for today; that is all you have” but God says, “**Your future has already been created, so live for it.**” So how does a Christian deal with all this pressure? Those who do not admit they struggle are simply not being honest. If you are struggling to live with rock-solid hope in God in the face of opposition, perhaps you will find courage from one of these three biblical truths.

V. Biblical truths that **give** hope.

- You are not **alone** (1 Corinthians 10:13).

The first truth is that struggling for eternal hope in a temporary world is common. 1 Corinthians 10:13 (*read*) reminds us that we all struggle with the same kinds of temptations but God is faithful! You are not the first and will not be the last to doubt God’s promises in a FOMO world. Truthfully, you are in good company with spiritual giants like Job, King David, and John the Baptist (Matthew 11:2-3). While your doubts do not make you a spiritual giant, your response can! If nothing seems to make sense to you – if the eternal is clouded by the temporary – do not lose hope. Keep fighting for what lasts! Just the fact that you are struggling is a good thing, it means you are in the battle. You are in the company of great Christians who struggled with these same things. The **key** to your victory is to remember **your future has already been created, so live for it** and rest in the promises of God. You will never be less of a Christian because you struggle.

- God has already kept His **greatest** promise (1 Peter 1:3-5).

One great promise we have that God has already kept is salvation. When we struggle to rest in God’s future promises, look in the mirror to remind yourself of what God has already done to give you salvation. If you are not sure of where to look in the Bible to do that, turn to 1 Peter 1:3-5. The apostle Peter wrote this letter

to Christians who were confused and discouraged by the persecution they were encountering because of their faith. Their hope in God was an empty cup, and they were desperate for a refill. So Peter dips into the Gospel reserves to refresh their souls. (Read 1 Peter 1:3-5)

Did you notice how Peter reminds them of the many things God has already done for them?

- He gave them mercy when their sin demanded **justice**.
- He gave them a **living** hope and an indestructible inheritance.
- He reserved a **place** for them in heaven.
- He kept them **safe** until Christ returned to take them to glory.

The point in it all seems to be that God has done all of the work to save them and us. We added nothing to the fulfillment of this promise. All we did is respond to Him in faith and He gave us the rest. If you have not yet put your trust in Christ to save you, that is all that is required of you, too. You cannot earn God's favor in any way. It is all of grace through faith.

The Gospel reminds us that **your future has already been created, so live for it**. We hoped in Him once for salvation, which strengthens our confidence in God's future promises. God will keep all of His other promises.

The Connection:

VI. A **future** already created.

So what are some other promises that we can hope in God for? There are many, and we cannot review them all here. We already touched on the return of Christ from Revelation 22. Here is a handful of great and precious promises that we can take to the bank regularly:

Ask various students to read the following passages. Fill in the blanks after reading. Feel free to comment briefly on each promise as time allows. Remind students after reviewing each promise, "Your future has already been created, so live for it."

- The Spirit will help us in our **weakness** – Romans 8:26
- **Death** will be destroyed – 1 Corinthians 15:54-55
- The **Devil** will be destroyed – Revelation 20:7-10
- Our bodies will be **transformed** – Philippians 3:20-21
- The earth will be made **new** – Revelation 21:1-4

Biblical hope on display – Marie Durand

In his book "Passion," Karl Olsson tells a story of incredible hope among the early French Protestants called Huguenots. In the late seventeenth century in southern France, a girl named Marie Durand was brought before the authorities and charged with heresy. She was fourteen years old, bright, attractive, marriageable. She was asked to renounce the Huguenot faith. She was not asked to commit an immoral act, to become a criminal, or even to change the day-to-day quality of her behavior. She was only asked to say, "I renounce." No more, no less. She did not comply. Together with thirty other Huguenot women she was put into a tower by the sea.... For thirty-eight years she continued.... and instead of the hated word "I renounce" she, together with her fellow victims, scratched on the wall of the prison tower the single word "Resist!" The word is still seen and gaped at by tourists on the

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stone wall at her prison. She was eventually released from prison and lived for eight more years before she finally saw the ultimate object of her hope, Christ himself. Marie Durand remained true to Christ to the end and resisted the temporal hopes of this world to make things easier or better. This may seem idiotic to anyone that is so used to living for the moment and has little-to-no capacity to wait and endure. Marie was no idiot. She just had higher hopes than this life could deliver.

The Decision:

Today we find ourselves in the middle of God's story. Jesus Christ has won the day through His death and resurrection, and the best of His story is yet to come, but we are unsure of His timing on all of His promises. Because of this it is up to us to live differently than everyone else in the world. Instead of living in the FOMO we can...

- Wait patiently for Jesus Christ to come back.
- Read the promises of God often so we do not lose hope.
- Share God's promises with others. We also need to remind one another of the promises of God while we wait for Him to fulfill them. Talk them up whenever you have opportunity.
- Pray the promises of God. Pray the "Maranatha!" prayer and praise God that the devil and death will be destroyed soon. God hears these prayers because they are already in His bank and when He returns, His bank will be open for business. Hopefully we will get to "cash in on them" sooner than we realize!