

## **4 day devotional: Keeping Hope.**

*Our Bible App.*

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### Day one.

#### ***Reassurance from Jesus.***

John 14:1-4 (MSG)

*"Don't let this throw you. You trust God, don't you? Trust me. There is plenty of room for you in my Father's home. If that weren't so, would I have told you that I'm on my way to get a room ready for you? And if I'm on my way to get your room ready, I'll come back and get you so you can live where I live. And you already know the road I'm taking."*

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We trust God to keep us and envelop us at our darkest moments into the family of God. As we bring our hurt and pain into the family of God we can trust that God will hold space for that part of us and help us mend and heal.

Jesus explains his reasoning for such a heavy emotional pep talk later in verse 29 by infusing his disciples with hope before leaving them.

John 14:27,29 *"That's my parting gift to you. Peace. I don't leave you the way you're used to being left—feeling abandoned, bereft. So don't be upset. Don't be distraught. I've told you this ahead of time, before it happens, so that when it does happen, the confirmation will deepen your belief in me."*

Jesus reassures and reminds us to hold tight to the gift of peace and to reject hopelessness. This important reminder infuses us with the power to carry the hope of the Gospel that God's love is sufficient.

Hope is the door to healing that we must be brave enough to walk through. Jesus gives us the gift of hope and leaves us capable of not only containing that hope during the darkest night, but also the ability to spread it to the rest of the world.

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### Day two.

#### ***God of the resilient hope.***

Hebrews 12:1-3(MSG)

*Do you see what this means—all these pioneers who blazed the way, all these veterans cheering us on? It means we'd better get on with it. Strip down, start running—and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: Cross, shame, whatever. And now he's there, in the place of honor, right alongside God. When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. That will shoot adrenaline into your souls!*

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The largest part of keeping and cultivating hope is to not give up and give in to despair. So often setbacks and frustrations extinguish our hope and kill our joy. Listening to stories and testimonies in community of perseverance and faith. These stories connect to a part of us that has also felt hopeless and lackluster in passion, and resonates that there is hope for us too.

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**Hebrew 12:14-17** *Work at getting along with each other and with God. Otherwise you'll never get so much as a glimpse of God. Make sure no one gets left out of God's generosity. Keep a sharp eye out for weeds of bitter discontent. A thistle or two gone to seed can ruin a whole garden in no time.*

As we cultivate hope we can so often forget to offer it to others. Our insight and wisdom that *knows* there is hope for all wants to be shared with the world. Don't forget others are looking for hope too! Look for places to plant those seed of hope in the coming week, and then you may start noticing more hope in your life too.

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Day three.

### ***Hope for everybody.***

Philippians 2:1-4(MSG)

*If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care— then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.*

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When hopelessness sets in we so often find ourselves embittered. Desperate for that sense of peace we so often forget about the plight of others and our roles as hope messengers. As we notice hope and spread the word among our communities it catches on and soon everyone is experiencing an uplifting. With a strong positive outlook on the future, the community can build itself up and support others.

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**Philippians 2:14-16** *Do everything readily and cheerfully—no bickering, no second-guessing allowed! Go out into the world uncorrupted, a breath of fresh air in this squalid and polluted society. Provide people with a glimpse of good living and of the living God. Carry the light-giving Message into the night so I'll have good cause to be proud of you on the day that Christ returns. You'll be living proof that I didn't go to all this work for nothing.*

We can create the hope that the world so desperately need to see. We must slow ourselves down long enough to envision it and plant the seed. Envisioning and spreading the hope of God is one of the most important jobs of the church body and must be taken seriously by every member. Look for hope today, in everyone.

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Day four.

### ***Unending Hope***

Psalm 33:18-22(MSG)

*Watch this: God's eye is on those who respect him,*

*the ones who are looking for his love.*

*He's ready to come to their rescue in bad times;*

*in lean times he keeps body and soul together.*

*We're depending on God;*

*he's everything we need.*

*What's more, our hearts brim with joy*

*since we've taken for our own his holy name.*

*Love us, God, with all you've got—*

*that's what we're depending on.*

God is watching out for us, promising to be our wellspring of hope. In turn making us each a wellspring of hope for our families, friends, and communities. It really is the mystery of God that fills us overflow with miraculous hope and joy, bursting forth and sharing with the rest of the world.

Receiving God's love opens doors for hope, and opens doors for others to experience hope. Take peace as a shield and remember that hope comes unending from God above to settle our ever restless heart.