

Small Group Questions
Following the sermon on 15th November

Eternal Hope
1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

1. What kind of things are you looking forward to at the moment? Does it help you to have things to look forward to?
2. If you can, share an occasion when someone has encouraged you and the difference it made.

Christian hope is built on what has already happened

3. Find the places in this passage where the good news of Jesus is spoken of.
4. Have a go at re-wording 5:9-10 in jargon-free, everyday language.
5. We have a *sure and certain* hope – does it seem strange to use these words alongside the word ‘hope’?

Christian hope is focused on what will happen one day

6. How would you describe what death is like? Have you ever thought about it?
7. Does the account of Jesus’ return (4:16-17) excite you or make you worried?
8. How do you feel about the images of Jesus’ return being like a thief in the night or labour pains for a pregnant woman?
9. Do you live your life with this future-focus? What could you do to adjust your focus?

We are a people of hope

10. What does it mean to live as a child of the light/day?
11. Do you think that during Covid-19 Christians *have* been able to live as those who have hope? How have you faced this time differently from your non-Christian friends/family/colleagues? (if you have!)

Dig deeper – if you have time, read Acts 17:1-10a for the account of Paul’s time in Thessalonica.

Spend time thanking God for the hope that we have as expressed in Romans 8:38-39.

Consider as you go: Who can I encourage this week?