



Lord, please protect and bless this town, especially: those who are suffering with Covid-19; the battle-fatigued medics & carers; those who are lonely and isolated; the children and teachers in our schools; all those suffering poor mental health; those who are worried about their jobs; and those who are grieving.



Hope in a Time of Pandemic - Study Guide

Sunday 8th November 2020

Our hope in the capability of human governments and leaders is often disappointed; they are human, like we are – messed-up and imperfect.

None are wholly just, wholly compassionate, wholly wise.

We pray for our leaders and the difficult and responsible work that they have, but we put our HOPE for the nations, and for ourselves in a more trustworthy, wise, caring, selfless and powerful leader – His name is Jesus.

BIG Hope - Please read Romans 15.12-13; 2 Corinthians 5.17-19; Amos 5.24

1. What kind of hope do you draw from the truths of these verses?
2. How does Ephesians 2.12-13 bring you into God's story of hope for the world?

TENDER & STRONG Hope - Please read the article I read from in the service (I read the opening paragraphs about the UK), by Gideon Heugh (Tearfund)

https://www.tearfund.org/2020/10/when_hope_hurts_faith_and_despair_in_a_pandemic/

3. How do you relate to this?
4. Please read Matthew 12.20-21; Hebrews 4.15-16; Romans 15.4 – How do these truths bring you hope in a time of pandemic? And how can we best encourage each other to keep accessing this hope – individually and together as a group?

SECURE Hope – Please read Hebrews 6.19-20; 1 Peter 1.3-4; Hymn 'Will Your Anchor Hold'

5. How do these truths affect your sense of hope in unsettling times?

OVERFLOWING Hope – Ezekiel 47.7-12 speaks of an expansive hope – not only reaching all of humanity, but in renewing every part of our lives – spiritual, physical and emotional.

Please read Romans 15.13; 2 Corinthians 1.3-4; 2 Corinthians 9.12-13

6. How do these verses reflect God's desire to pour blessing into every part of our lives? And through us to bless others?
7. Please read Hebrews 10.23-24 How can we do this better as Small Groups?