



Hope

28d

Objective The confirmands would like to become more and more like Jesus Christ so that the fruit of the Holy Spirit becomes evident.

Contents Hope is a powerful force in all circumstances.

Hint

If this has not already been done the confirmands are to relate the experiences of faith which they recorded as homework following lesson 28a.

1 Lead-in

Explain

How often do we say “hopefully” or “I hope” in our daily life? Wishes are associated with this which we would like to have fulfilled.

Ask

What do you hope for?

Listen to answers and summarise

There are many human hopes which change depending on age or situation. There are also hopes which are rooted in divine promises. These include the hope for

- God's help in our life,
- the imminent return of Jesus Christ
- grace in order to be accepted at the return of Christ
- the experience of God's glory.

2 Human hopes

Explain

For our personal well-being
For the well-being of humankind

Every human being has hopes, even if these are only for good weather during holidays, a nice gift, etc. Often we also place our hopes in greater, more important things, such as passing an examination, finding a good apprenticeship position or job.

Many people hope for a better future for mankind as a whole, or for an improvement in their personal circumstances.





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Ask

Provide a few additional examples.

Listen to answers and supplement

Many people hope for

- their daily bread,
- personal wellbeing
- an improvement of their circumstances through development and progress,
- peace to be re-established in war-torn areas, and
- the preservation of the environment.

Although to have such hopes fulfilled would be favourable, most of them will not be fulfilled. We ought to therefore ask ourselves whether our hopes are well-founded.

Elaborate through questions

– What is my hope based on?

Is my hope only based on unrealistic desires?

– Is my hope justified?

Do I actually need what I am wishing for? Will it make me happy?

– What are experienced people saying about it?

Am I prepared to listen and follow their advice?

– Is this hope worthwhile?

What will I gain if my hopes are fulfilled?

3 Putting our hope in God

Read aloud

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Peter 1: 3).

“Rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 1: 13).

Explain

As children of God we place all our hope in God as regards our natural and spiritual concerns. He has fulfilled all of His previous promises. For this reason we also have a well-founded, living hope that He will soon fulfil the promise of the return of Jesus Christ.

Let us again ask ourselves the questions:

Elaborate through questions

– What is my hope based on?

My hope is based on divine promises (cf. Romans 5: 2–5).

– Is my hope justified?

God keeps His promises (cf. 1 Thessalonians 5: 24; Hebrews 6: 18). He is faithful and omnipotent.





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– What are experienced people saying about it?

All those who have experienced God's loyalty will advise us to trust in God alone and put our hope in Him (cf. Hebrews 10: 35).

– Is this hope worthwhile?

It certainly is! God wants to make us into His Son's image and make us joint heirs with Him. We will reign with Christ and be for ever with God and Christ (cf. Hebrews 10: 37; 1 John 3: 2–3).

Workbook exercise

The confirmands now do the exercise in their workbook. Afterwards the answers are discussed. It is to be noted that the answers are not always obvious. The confirmands are therefore to substantiate their suggestions. When their explanation is convincing the suggestion is considered appropriate.

4 Putting our hope in God creates true joy

Explain

Our hope creates joy

In the previous section we established that as God's children we are permitted to hope for a wonderful future. This hope arouses great joy in our hearts. We look forward to what Apostle Paul has described:

- "... in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began" (Titus 1: 2).
- "... looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ" (Titus 2: 13).

The main points

I also want to hope and trust in the Lord Jesus!

Homework

If no further lessons in series 28 will be covered the confirmands are to again concern themselves with the confirmation vow.

Hint

For lesson 29 the confirmands' parents are invited.

