

Part 1: Hope in the Garden

GENESIS 3:15

Sunday, November 24, 2024 | Wawasee Bible | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Dave Winters

Biblical Hope is the confident assurance that God will keep every promise he has made.

Hope begins with...

BELIEVING, not doubting, that God is **GOOD** (3:1-6)

being **PERSONAL**, not **GENERIC**, with God (3:1-6)

being **OPEN**, not **HIDING** (3:7-10)

CONFESSING, not **BLAMING** (3:11-13)

and living with consequences wrapped in grace. (3:14-24)



Text us at **833-271-8805**.
— Text **APP** to get our app.

Text this number anytime for prayer. Just say, "**Pray for...**" followed by your request.

Or if you just need someone to talk to, start texting us with whatever's going on and someone will be in touch via text.



Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

What is this? — Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

Welcome Back to Life Groups!

This week we kick off our Fall Semester of Life Groups! Each week as we meet we'll spend part of our time getting to know more about one another.

Share with the Group:

What's the biggest lie you told as a child?

Digging Deeper – A Bible Study

Use this guide for further personal and group study this week. For the most impact in your life and in your group, *work through it on your own before you gather with your Life Group.* If your Life Group isn't gathering this week, use this guide for further study personally.

1. The aim of this sermon series is to trace how hope unfolds over the course of the storyline of the Bible. **Biblical hope is the confident assurance that God will keep every promise he has made.** How does that definition strike you? Is that how you understand hope? *Discuss it with your group before moving on.*
2. Satan's favorite strategy is to try and convince us that God is holding out on us and therefore can't be trusted. Most of us have at least one area of our own lives where we struggle with thinking God is not looking out for our good. Circle any of the areas below (or add your own) where you find it more difficult than other areas to trust that God is good.

Singleness Marriage School Future Work/Job Friends
Children Forgiveness Health Finances Safety Other
3. Temptation is something we all have to deal with. Sometimes we're more successful than other times at avoiding or resisting it. Can you think of any safeguards or strategies you have seen others use or you yourself have in place to resist and/or avoid temptation? If so, explain.
4. A big part of finding victory in the spiritual battle we all face is knowing how our enemy works. As we learn more about the devil, we'll be better prepared to understand his schemes and be able to resist him. What do the following verses tell us about who the devil is and how he likes to operate?








(Study Guide continues on back panel...)

Welcome to Wawasee!

OUR OUTCOMES This is who we hope you grow to *become* at Wawasee Bible...

If I'm truly growing as a follower of Jesus, I should be growing in the ways that I am...

-  1 | **Receiving From God.** Am I reading the Word regularly? When am I gathering to hear the Word taught? What fruit of the Spirit do I see growing in my life?
-  2 | **Responding To God.** How am I talking to and listening to God regularly? What are some healthy spiritual habits I'm working on (things like giving, scripture memory, repentance, rest, etc.)?
-  3 | **Receiving From Others.** Where and how am I in community/friendship with other Christians in our church who have a window to speak into my life?
-  4 | **Moving Toward Others.** How and where am I contributing to and initiating community with other Christians in our church? (Or am I only consuming?)
-  5 | **Going to those Far from God.** How am I regularly going toward those who are far from God—loving them, sharing God's Story and my own story? When was the last time I shared God's story and/or my faith story? Who is on my PEARL list?

Word Find in the Word

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

Word Find: Revelation 12:7-10 (ESV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

7 Now war **arose** in **heaven**, **Michael** and his **angels fighting** against the **dragon**. And the **dragon** and his **angels fought back**,⁸ but he was **defeated**, and **there** was no **longer** any **place** for them in **heaven**.⁹ And the **great dragon** was **thrown** down, that **ancient serpent**, who is **called** the **devil** and **Satan**, the **deceiver** of the **whole** world—he was **thrown** down to the **earth**, and his **angels** were **thrown** down with him.¹⁰ And I **heard** a **loud voice** in **heaven**, **saying**, "Now the **salvation** and the **power** and the **kingdom** of our God and the **authority** of his **Christ** have **come**, for the **accuser** of our brothers has been **thrown** down, who **accuses** them day and night before our God.

V O I C E A R T H E A R D D
G M C H G R E A T P L A C E
R G I N E O L O N G E R H O
U S K F V S L D E V I L R L
K C O I D E F E A T E D I B
K K L G F A C C U S E R S S
K S O H E A V E N A G P T A
U A U T H O R I T Y W P U T
L L D I N M K V T I H S H A
B V C N P O W E R N O E C N
A A N G E L S R P G L R A P
C T H R O W N C O M E P L O
K I N G D O M I C H A E L T
F O U G H T D R A G O N E L
A N C I E N T H E R E T D R

life groups Study Guide (continued)

John 8:44

Isaiah 14:12-15

1 Peter 5:8

- If hope is the **confident assurance that God will keep every promise he has made**, what are some ways Satan tries to derail our hope?
 - Two more to consider: how could **1 John 4:4** and **James 4:7-8** be of encouragement to you in your battle against the devil?
5. We often fall into sin because we don't understand how subtle temptation is. It takes us through a series of small compromises and/or unwise decisions until we are enticed into sinning... and despairing... and losing our hope. So if we want to avoid temptation or stand up to it when it comes, we need to be prepared. How could the following passages help prepare you to deal with any temptations that may come your way?.

Galatians 6:7-10

Romans 6:12-13

Hebrews 4:14-16

- What do you find most useful to you from these passages in helping you deal with temptation?

Taking It Home

5. When life gets difficult or we don't get what we want (or think we deserve), we can struggle with wondering if God can be trusted to look out for us. **And, eventually, we lose hope.** And if Satan is so bent on convincing us that we can't trust God's care for us, then it would be wise to strengthen our confidence in his care and concern. What truths do you see in these two well known passages that can help you remember that God can be trusted even when we don't understand what he's doing.

Psalms 23:1-4

Romans 8:31-39

Prayer

As you close, take time to pray for each other. Divide into separate groups of men and women. Feel free to share requests, just be sure each person gets prayed for.

This week's Study Guide is adapted from a study by North Coast Church in Vista, CA. North Coast is a sister church of Wawasee Bible and part of the EFCA.



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at wawaseebible.com/beliefs. Learn more about the EFCA at efca.org.

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HOPE UNFOLDING

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PART 1



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