



hope

DWELLING IN THE WORD

A devotional resource for committees & teams

Romans 5:1-5 (NRSV)

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Philippians 3:12-14 (NRSV)

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Revelation 21:1-4 (NRSV)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.”

1. **Provide pencils/pens and a copy** of this handout to each team member.
2. **Read aloud a Scripture passage** from the suggestions to the left. Invite listeners to **circle words or phrases** that they notice as the Scripture is read.
3. **Allow a few moments** of silence for quiet reflection. Then, **share** your observations with each other.
4. **If time**, invite those present to **respond** to one or more of these questions:
 - * If I were reading these verses online, which words or phrases would I like to “link” to further information? Further historical information?
 - * What literary insights (grammar, characters, theme, setting) would help me better understand this passage?
 - * How do teachings of the Christian faith (perhaps, from a Lutheran perspective) help me better understand this passage?
 - * What do I hear God saying to me in this passage? Does anything come to mind for the topic before us today?
5. **Pause for prayer**, giving thanks for God’s word shared here today.

What other theme would you like to consider?

*Which Scripture verses could you read?
What questions might you ask?*

