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Event: Life Group

Audience: (Insert life group(s) name)

Ministry Date: (Insert date of life group)

Purpose: Material facilitation for Life Group

Prepared & Released: Pastor David Yong, Jan 2021

Material briefing: None required

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## LESSON TITLE : *Ruins to Resurrection*

### **INTRODUCTION:**

#### **Purpose of lesson:**

Re-proclaiming the message of Hope!

#### **Application:**

1. Starts with Love
2. Continues with Compassion
3. Grows in Humility

#### **Take home:**

Come alive in Jesus name!

### **MAIN SCRIPTURE:**

**1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)**

*...Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have...*

### **ELABORATION FROM SCRIPTURE:**

1) A believer's 'Hope' is the confidence in the nature of God and His Word. Hope is focused on the future when the present seems certain or especially uncertain. A believer's hope begins with Christ's love expressed on the Cross in Redemption. Then Reconciliation happens in our relationship with the Father. Our heart is Resolute that we have been eternally rescued from death and damnation. That leads us to live each day with purpose and with a posture of worship unto God – that is a Christian's hope!

2) Many in our world today and at times us, place our immediate trust or hope in people that may disappoint. **Psalms 146:3-5** express it the best. That it ought to be in God alone! *'3 Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save. 4 When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing. 5 Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God.'*

3) Peter emphasizes that hope begins with God's love for us, but Hope continues on with our love for others.

4) Peter outlines (1 Peter 3:8) that beyond love, believers are to be compassionate and humble. These are elements that the 1<sup>st</sup> century church and even in our present society often overlook and worst still not paired alongside love.

Peter explicitly mentions this, because the believers then were being persecuted for doing God's will and found it hard to keep doing what's right to love, to be compassionate and to remain humble. Yet it was hope that kept them honouring God. This principle revealed applies to us today too! Because we have and we will face challenges and crisis as we seek to honour God. Yet he has released us with hope and to release that hope to those around us!

5) Peter uniquely adds in a condition as we be these messengers of hope. Which is to do it in gentleness and respect. We are not to win an argument, but win souls for Christ. We are to meet people at eye level as Christ did. Christ' example is ours to follow.

6) Peter emphasizes to *'Always be prepared/ready to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have,'* (1 Peter 3:15) is the one evidence that Jesus Christ is Lord in our lives, because we are ready to love. We have compassion and are willing to humble ourselves, all so that we can witness to others about Christ and seek to win them (bring Ruins to Resurrection) to Christ!

## **DISCUSSION:**

### **REQUIRED STARTING QUESTIONS:**

1) What was one devastating/disappointing thing that disrupted your 2020/2021 plans?

\*\*In reference to the COVID-19 MCOs – studies, work, holiday or other plans.

2) What's hope to you as a Christian/follower of Christ? If you'd like to share, a moment of hope during this 1 year?

\*\*Encourage 1-2 members to elaborate. This could develop into them sharing their testimony.

### **OPTIONAL QUESTIONS: Pick according to age group/suitability of hearers**

1) Has anyone whether a Christian or pre-believer ask you about 'What makes you hopeful?' (Not worried/have peace/trust in God) and what did you say?

2) What makes it difficult to tell others about what makes you hopeful in God?

3) When someone didn't believe/made you feel silly for putting your hope in God, What happened inside of you OR what did you say to God?

4) The Bible says in Psalms 146:3-5

*'3 Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save. 4 When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing. 5 Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God.'*

Are you able to identify with that OR have you experienced it yourself?

5) What can you do to be as Peter instructed us *'To always be prepared/ready'* to share with others about God?

## **REQUIRED ENDING QUESTIONS & APPLICATION: (More reflective and responsive - leading to prayer)**

### **Starts with love**

1) Our take home statement 'Come alive in Jesus name!' may sound like a Christian jargon AND really awkward to say out loud.

But which friend/family that you love dearly comes to your mind that really needs the Hope of Christ in their lives? That you can speak in faith, that they will 'Come alive in Jesus name!'

### **Continues with Compassion**

2) What practical steps you can start/keep doing/add on intentionally to be that messenger of Hope to the 'world' around you?

\*\*World represents – friends, family, acquaintances, online social media, in public spaces.

### **Grows in Humility**

3) It's important to remember that as you are sharing the hope of Christ, that you are constantly in need of his grace and help too. Peter reminds us gentleness and respect that must accompany our efforts.

What's an area of your life you need God's grace and help today?

\*\*May not relate to being a messenger of Hope/disciple maker OR it could be. This question helps us realize our dependence on God, keeps us in check and humble us unto God.

## **CONCLUSION:**

### **RECAP - Purpose of lesson: Ruins to Resurrection**

Re-proclaiming the message of Hope!

### **RECAP – Key verse**

**1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)**

**...Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have...**

## **RECAP - Application:**

1. Starts with Love
2. Continues with Compassion
3. Grows in Humility

## **RECAP - Take home:**

Come alive in Jesus name!

## **ENDING:**

Conclude in prayer : lesson's emphasis, needs of LG members, church, community and country.

**Prepared by,  
Ps David Yong**