

H O L D I N G
O U T

hope

C E L E B R A T I N G
L I V I N G H O P E A N D
S H A R I N G I T W I T H O T H E R S



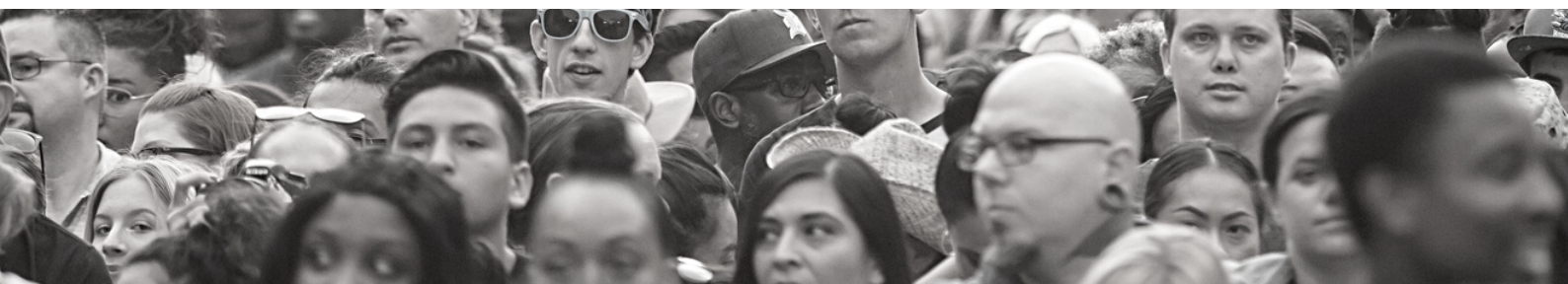
TOONGABBIE
ANGLICAN
CHURCH



Introduction

The good news of Jesus offers hope like nothing else in this world. Every other hope is uncertain. And with those uncertain hopes we rise and fall. In Jesus we have hope for every season; joy and peace that is unshakable. Our privilege in knowing Jesus is to connect all of our hopes, dreams and actions to the one living hope of Jesus.

These studies prepare us for Easter, both in focussing our attention on Jesus death and resurrection, but also preparing us to share the hope we have in a time where hope is needed.



Study 1

H O L D I N G O N T O L I V I N G H O P E

1. What's something you're really hoping for this year?
2. Why do we doubt our hopes?

READ 1 PETER 1:1-9

As Peter opens his letter to the “exiles of the dispersion”, Peter begins in an outburst of praise and blessing to God. In doing so he reminds his readers that despite being scattered throughout the Mediterranean, they do have a true home—a land of their own that awaits them in heaven.

3. According to these verses, God’s people are born ‘into’ two things: a living hope and an imperishable inheritance. Why is it a living hope?
4. What is the inheritance that can never perish and when will it be received? How can he be so confident?



Study 1

H O L D I N G O N T O L I V I N G H O P E

5. How do we reconcile the idea that we are protected by God's power, and the fact we suffer all kinds of trials?

6. Look carefully at how the trials or difficulties are described:

- What is their duration (compared with the eternal inheritance)?
- What sort of trials will come?
- What is their immediate purpose?
- What is the end result?

YOUR STORY OF HOPE

Your life is a story of God's glory. God works in every moment: highs, lows, doubts, joys. Every story has drama where the hopeful ending is challenged. If your story is undergirded with the certain, living hope of Jesus through the resurrection, explore the drama of "all kinds of trials". How would you share this story? How has God used his Word and Spirit, his people and his divine provisions to grow you? How has the living hope of Jesus been made more real for you in this time? Take some time to share a recent "chapter" of your story.



Study 2

H O L D I N G O U T H O P E T O T H E N E E D Y

This study is part of "**Compassion Sunday**".

Compassion is a Christian international holistic child development organisation. Through their Child Sponsorship Program, more than 2 million children are currently being released from poverty in Jesus' name.

READ PROVERBS 14:31

How does the ways we treat the poor reflect well or poorly on God?

READ MATTHEW 25:34-40

In this passage Jesus explains how significant it is to God that we care for the poor, particularly fellow believers. Why should Christian's care for the poor?

What are some ways that Jesus speaks of in caring for the poor?

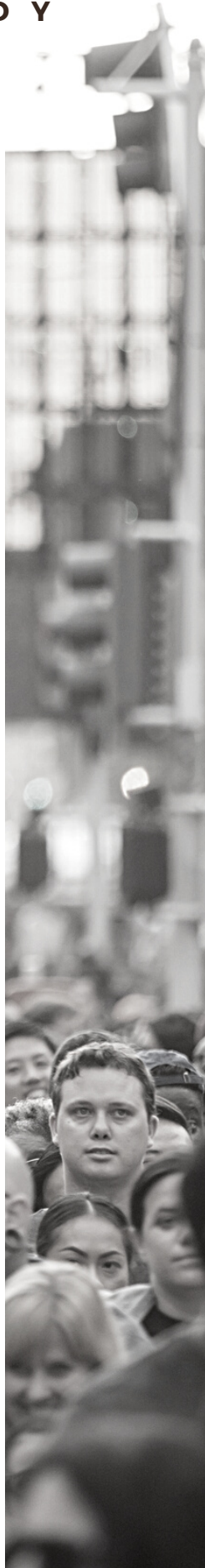
What are practical (and sometimes theological) reasons we don't prioritise caring for the poor? How might we overcome these?



Study 2

H O L D I N G O U T H O P E T O T H E N E E D Y

Watch this video about Colin Buchanan and his son Riley visiting Indonesia (or search youtube for "Colin Buchanan Father & Son Adventure Compassion")



Study 3

H O L D I N G O U T H O P E

What TV series, car, thing have you found yourself promoting (?evangelising?!) about recently?

When it comes to sharing your faith + hope what comes to mind?

READ 1 PETER 3:13-18

What is refreshing about how Peter frames "sharing the hope we have"? What is the motivation for sharing?

What are the challenges

What kind of preparation does Peter suggest we do?

What is our "missional temperature" at TAC?

I'd love to get a feel for how enthusiastic we are for mission, how equipped people feel and how easy our services are to invite people along to.

Please take 4 minutes to fill in this anonymous survey: tac.church/missional-temperature



Study 3

H O L D I N G O U T H O P E

Sharing your "story of hope" with others!

In the first week of this study, you reflected on the drama of living in the "living hope" of Jesus. Discuss the kinds of circumstances you could share some or all of that story with another? Who? Spend some time praying for such a conversation with these people.

The 5 Thresholds

As an interesting resource to get you thinking further about sharing your hope, watch this video that came out of a study (and a book) that explores sharing Jesus in a post-modern/christian age.



or go to vimeo.com/search and type "5 Thresholds Overview".