



## TALK IT OVER

### The Hope You Need

Pastor Andy Wood

Easter 2026

If you would like to watch the weekend message, visit [www.saddleback.com/watch](http://www.saddleback.com/watch).

Open your group in prayer and remember that this is only a guide. Feel free to discuss each of the questions provided or simply dive deeper into just one. Before you close with prayer, take a few minutes to look over the Three Essential Questions at the end of the document.

### Scriptures

John 11:4 (NIV), John 11:20-44 (NIV, NLT), Psalm 34:18 (NIV), John 17:3 (NIV), 2 Peter 3:9 (NIV), John 20:18-20 (NIV), Hebrews 6:19-20 (NIV), John 1:12-13 (NIV), Romans 6:4 (NIV)

### Questions

1. If our hope is anchored in our circumstances, we'll find ourselves constantly going back and forth—and living in despair. We need an enduring hope that goes beyond our circumstances! A Biblical definition of hope is, "a confident expectation anchored in the truth." Referring to Christ, Romans 6:4 (NIV) says we were "*buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.*" Hebrews 6:19-20 (NIV) says, "*We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf.*" According to the verses above, what is the kind of hope we need as an anchor for our soul, and how does the resurrection of Jesus provide us with that hope?
2. Read John 11:1-44 aloud in your group. Just before going to the cross to die for our sins, Jesus weaves circumstances together to reveal the glory of God in His Son! We see that He is the God who can, the God who cares, and the God who will! As sovereign God, He is weaving all things together in His great plan! 2 Peter 3:9 (NIV) says, "*The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*" According to verses 4 and 15, why did Jesus say he was glad for the disciples' sake that he was not present when Lazarus died? According to verses 21 and 32, what did Martha and Mary say? According to verses 25 and 42, what did the disciples gain by Jesus allowing Lazarus to die before resurrecting him?

3. As noted above, Jesus is “the God who can.” In John 11:25 (NLT), Jesus first gives Martha “the ministry of truth” when He says, *“I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.”* Jesus is also “the God who cares.” In John 11:35 (NIV), Jesus gives Mary “the ministry of tears”—as recorded in the shortest verse in the Bible, *“Jesus wept.”* Jesus is revealed to be a God of divinity and humanity, a God of justice and mercy, and a God of truth and compassion! Discuss how the whole message of the cross is a convergence of all the characteristics of God in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ.
  
4. The Bible tells us that this life is not all that there is; the Bible does not tell us that we won’t have pain and sorrow—in fact, it says exactly the opposite! But God promises that he will walk with us through the pain! Psalm 34:18 (NIV) says, *“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”* We will experience moments of grief and loss in this life. The hope we need is based on: (1) the God who can, (2) the God who cares, and (3) the God who will. Everything God has promised to accomplish, He will! The question is not, “Will God keep His promises?”—the question is, “When will God fulfill them?” We have to choose to believe in the dark what we have come to believe in the light! In what ways do we sometimes second-guess God? Discuss the kind of hope we need during the painful moments in life we all face in this broken and fallen world.
  
5. In John 11:43 (NIV), *“Jesus called in a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come out!’”* Only Jesus can give new life! Then it says in John 11:44, *“The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, ‘Take off the grave clothes and let him go.’”* Notice that it is God’s people who help free Lazarus from the grave clothes so that he can walk in freedom! God gives us the church to help us walk in the new life Jesus gives us through His life, death, and resurrection! We receive new hope through community—including small groups, serving opportunities, and sharing how God is working in our lives! What specific actions can you take this week to live out the truth that you are a child of God? What are some practical ways you can support others who need hope today?
  
6. How do you receive the ultimate hope that you need for eternal life? Jesus said to Martha in John 11:25 (NLT), *“I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.”* The Apostle John wrote in John 1:12–13 (NIV), *“To all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.”* The night before Jesus gave his life for you on the cross, he prayed to the Father in John 17:3 (NIV), *“This is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”* What does John 1:12–13 teach with regard to *“the right to become children of God?”* According to the verses above, discuss how you ultimately receive the hope in Jesus that you need for eternal life. Have you received Christ and been baptized? If you haven’t already, how can you choose to further entrust your life to Jesus this week?

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Are you interested in the Bible and in helping small groups benefit from the weekend message? Well, you are in luck! Saddleback members like you create these discussion guides each week. If you are interested in joining the team, please email [JasonW@saddleback.com](mailto:JasonW@saddleback.com).

## Three Essential Questions

The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they and what they, or the group, can do as a result of hearing the message.

1. **What did you hear?** *What point in this message was most impactful for you?*
2. **What do you think?** *How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?*
3. **What will you do?** *How will you or your group put into practice what you've learned today?*

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