

THE HOPE – DISCUSSION GUIDE

SECTION ONE

Introduction

1. According to God's story--What is the purpose of life?
2. Why must there be Creator/God who made the world?
3. How can we know the Creator/God?
4. Summarize the "big story" of the Bible.
5. Why can we trust the Bible to answer the universal question, "what is the purpose of life?"

Chapter One – In The Beginning

1. What does the Bible teach us about God?
2. What does the Bible teach us about the world?
3. What does the Bible teach us about mankind?

Chapter Two – The Choice

1. What choice did God give to man?
2. Why did God give Adam a choice?
3. Is man the only created moral being?
4. How did Lucifer become God's enemy?

Chapter Three – The Deadly Disease

1. Who is to blame for Adam's and Eve's choice?
2. What are the results of Adam's and Eve's choices?
3. What did God do to cover Adam's and Eve's shame?

SECTION TWO

Chapter Four – Prelude To Promise

1. How does Noah's ark demonstrate God's justice and God's mercy?
2. How many "believers" were there when the flood began?
3. How did different languages and nations begin?

Chapter Five – Blessed To Be A Blessing

1. How does God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3 relate to the promise given in Genesis 3:15?
2. Why did it take faith for Abraham to believe God's promises?
3. How did God put Abraham's faith to the test?

Chapter Six – People of The Promise

1. How did God provide for His people through Joseph?
2. How does the Passover demonstrate both God's justice and mercy?
3. How many sacrifices can you list that we have seen so far?
4. What do they teach us about man's sin and God's justice and mercy?

Chapter Seven – Called To Walk In The Ways Of God

1. How did God give us His laws?
2. How are the 10 commandments like a window through which we see God and a mirror in which we see ourselves?
3. How did God provide for man if he broke God's laws?
4. How did God tell His people about The Deliverer that was to come?

SECTION THREE

Chapter Eight – The Promised One

1. How did God announce that The Deliverer would soon be born?
2. What promises did the Deliverer fulfill by the time He appeared to John the Baptizer?
3. What did John's message demonstrate both God's justice and mercy?

Chapter Nine – The Ministry of Jesus

1. Who were the disciples?
2. How did Jesus express His compassion and prove His authority by His works and words?
3. Why were the religious leaders so opposed to Jesus and how are we similar to them?

SECTION FOUR

Chapter Ten – God's Love And Justice

1. What did Jesus tell the disciples was going to happen to Him?
2. Why did the religious leaders plan to do away with Jesus?
3. Who is ultimately responsible for the crucifixion of Jesus?
(See Isaiah chapter 53 & I Peter 2:24)

Chapter Eleven – He Is Risen

1. What happened to Jesus' body after it was taken down from the cross?
2. How consistent and authoritative are the documents of the New Testament?
3. What other proof do we have that Jesus physically rose from the dead?

Chapter Twelve – His Followers – Yesterday, Today and Forever

1. Who is the Holy Spirit and how does He work in our lives today?
2. What was the message that Jesus' followers took to the world?
3. What is the result when people turn in faith to Jesus as the Sacrificial Lamb of God and Lord of all?
4. What happens to those who reject Him?

A Personal Invitation

1. How is this story unlike any other story about God?
2. How has God provided freedom from sin?
3. How do we say yes to God's invitation?

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16, NIV)