


- 1 Are you born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead?** (1 Peter 1:3) Have you shared your salvation story recently? If you have children, do they know how and when you became a Christian? Perhaps you might want to share your story faith with your community group, so take a few minutes to think about what you would want to say.
- 2 In depressive states, people struggle with the concept of hope.** Perhaps they do not see a way out of their despair. Something is clouding their hope. If you have ever been depressed, where was your hope? If you came out of depression, what place did hope play in your healing?
- 3 Biblical hope is not just a feeling that you will see the light again.** It is a settled, determined expectation that is located on something/someone outside of yourself. What is the source of biblical hope? *What Scriptures about hope give you confidence?*
- 4 Hopelessness may arise because of many reasons, but one reason is just not knowing the truth.** Think about a child who is told the Easter bunny will bring them chocolate eggs and gummy jellybeans every Easter Sunday. She expects those eggs and has a settled hope that those treats will be there year after year. Then someone tells her, "You know the Easter Bunny is not real. And Bunnies never laid eggs anyways in any time, ever." Her hope is dashed. She may still get treats but Easter is not the same again because her hope wasn't based in truth.

 *Describe some false hopes that leave people in despair when they find out they were not told the truth:*

- 5 What are you like when you do not get what you deserve?** Say you don't get a certain promotion, a promised bonus, a prized relationship, a need that should have been met...what are you like? Have you ever turned the tables in your mind and thought about eternal implications for not getting what you deserve?

 *If you are a true believer, you will never get what you truly deserve because you have a merciful God. In perspective with eternity, what do YOU really deserve? (Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23)*

 *When you begin to dwell on the undeserved mercy of God, what does that do to a health trial, a relational struggle, a loss, or a failure?*

