

BBC Bible Study Notes
From the Series: Time to Dream
“Need Hope?”
March 22, 2020

*“Always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks you about the hope you have. Be ready to give the reason for it. But do it gently and with respect.” 1 Peter 3:15
NIRV*

The local church is the hope of the world because of its message and because of its people. What kind of people do we need to be? We need to be “contagious” Christians who share our hope with others. How can you become a “contagious” Christian?

1. Through COMPASSION.

“You are the people of God; he loved you and chose you for his own. So then, you must clothe yourselves with compassion...” Colossians 3:12 GNT

“Do for others what you want them to do for you: this is the meaning of the Law of Moses and of the teachings of the prophets.” Matthew 7:12 GNT

2. Through CHARACTER.

“May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation, the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ, for this will bring much glory and praise to God.” Philippians 1:11

“Our purpose is to do what is right, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of others.” 2 Corinthians 8:21 GNT

3. Through COMMUNICATION.

“And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, “Come back to God!” 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 NLT

BBC Verse of the week: *“Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.”
Psalm 62:5-6 NIV*

BBCC Devotional Guide for March 22-28, 2020

Sunday: *“Always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks you about the hope you have. Be ready to give the reason for it. But do it gently and with respect.” 1 Peter 3:15 NIRV.* Thank God today that Jesus Christ is the hope of every believer! Ask God to point you to people with whom you can share your hope.

Monday: *“You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in your word.” Psalm 119:114 NIV.* Hope is the confident expectation that God will do what He has promised. God has promised to never leave you or forsake you. God has promised to provide everything you need to accomplish His purpose for your life. Thank God today for His promises and ask Him to strengthen your faith in His Word.

Tuesday: *“Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.” Psalm 62:5-6 NIV.* During this time of great uncertainty it is good to have a foundation of faith that cannot be shaken. It is important to find rest for your body, your mind and your heart. Ask God to help you find your rest in him.

Wednesday: *“You are the people of God; he loved you and chose you for his own. So then, you must clothe yourselves with compassion...” Colossians 3:12 GNT.* Compassion can be defined as love in action. Compassion asks the question, “How can I help? As you go through your day be on the lookout for ways you can help others and ask God to help you grow in compassion.

Thursday: *“May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation, the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ, for this will bring much glory and praise to God.” Philippians 1:11.* Christ-like character comes from a close connection with Jesus. This connection enables you to experience the fruit of the Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. As you consider these character traits, which of them do you need to ask God for today?

Friday: *“Our purpose is to do what is right, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of others.” 2 Corinthians 8:21 GNT.* As people watch what is happening in the world because of the outbreak of the coronavirus, they are also watching the response of the church. Pray that God will enable believers all over the world to be people of compassion and character who point people to Jesus.

Saturday: *“So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, “Come back to God!” 2 Corinthians 5:20 NLT.* Contagious Christians are ambassadors for Christ as we communicate the message of the Gospel. This present pandemic is an opportunity for people to turn to God. Please pray that God will draw people to Jesus in our church, in our community and all over the world.

