



P.C.E.A. ST. ANDREW'S PARISH //

BIBLE STUDY GUIDE 2025

Immovable Hope



"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess for He who promised is faithful."

Hebrews 10:23

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EAST AFRICA

ST. ANDREW'S PARISH



IMMOVABLE HOPE

2025 Bible Study Guide

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Preface

We are delighted to present the 2025 Bible Study Guide, themed "*Immovable Hope*," inspired by Hebrews 10:23: "*Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.*" In these uncertain times, where the world offers fleeting assurances, our firm foundation rests in the promises of God. This guide is prayerfully designed to help believers anchor themselves in the enduring hope of Christ—a hope that sustains through trials, strengthens through Scripture, and inspires unwavering faith.

As part of the vibrant P.C.E.A. St. Andrew's Parish family, we invite you as an individual, family, Elder Districts, or ministry to walk through the twelve thematic monthly studies. Each theme explores a unique dimension of biblical hope, drawing from both Old and New Testament texts. Using the Inductive Bible Study (IBS) method—Observation, Interpretation, and Application—this guide encourages personal discovery, group discussion, and spiritual growth. May your journey through these pages deepen your faith, renew your joy, and root your soul more firmly in the immovable hope that is ours in Christ Jesus.

Our Vision: *A Parish that mirrors Jesus Christ in totality*

Our Mission: *To worship God and serve humanity in obedience to The Great Commission*

Core Values:

- *Bible Centeredness*
- *Prayerfulness*
- *Presbyterian Governance*
- *Integrity*
- *Stewardship*
- *Ecumenism (Unity in Diversity)*
- *Professionalism*

Aim of this Book

As we progress through the year, we will explore how God's promises, faith, endurance, and the power of the Holy Spirit fortify our hope. We will also examine how this hope sustains us through trials and how it compels us to share the good news with others. Romans 15:13 says, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

This guide aims to help you cultivate a hope that endures, strengthens your faith, and propels you forward in your Christian Walk. May this study encourage you to remain steadfast in the hope that Christ provides.

IMMOVABLE HOPE

*"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful."
(Hebrews 10:23)*

Introduction

Hope is a powerful force that sustains believers through life's trials and uncertainties. However, the hope that truly anchors and transforms lives is found in Christ. Biblical hope is not mere wishful thinking or an escapist mentality. Instead, it is a confident expectation rooted in God's promises. It sustains us during hardships, fuels our faith, and provides assurance for the future.

Throughout Scripture, we see that hope is intricately tied to faith and endurance. Hebrews 11:1 reminds us that "faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." This means that hope is the precursor of faith just as hope is a vital element of faith, giving us the strength to trust in God's unseen yet certain promises. Colossians 1:27 declares, "Christ in you, the hope of glory," affirming that our hope is centered in Jesus. Likewise, Jeremiah 17:7 states, "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, and whose hope is the Lord."

Hope in Christ is not fleeting; it is secured by His resurrection, as 1 Peter 1:3-5 declares: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." This study guide explores how we can anchor our hope in Christ, drawing insights from various scriptural themes. We have lined up 12 thematic areas around hope that will help us to ground ourselves into the immovable hope that is assured in the scriptures. Each of the 12 thematic area has three subthemes related to the thematic area which we hope shall be the area of focus each month for you as an individual, ministry or district.

Mode of Study

For this study we shall employ *Inductive Bible Study mode*, which is a transformative approach to studying scriptures.

What is Inductive Bible Study?

Inductive Bible Study (IBS) is a method of studying Scripture that emphasizes personal discovery and a structured approach to understanding the biblical text. It is a powerful and enriching way to engage with Scripture. It equips believers to seek truth directly from God's word, deepening both knowledge and personal faith. Whether studying alone or in a group, this method provides a pathway for discovering biblical truths and applying them in a meaningful way. By embracing observation, interpretation, and application, one can experience Scripture in a transformative and life-changing manner.

IBS involves three key steps: **Observation, Interpretation, and Application**. Unlike other study methods that rely heavily on external commentaries or pre-existing theological perspectives, the inductive method encourages individuals to engage deeply with the text and allow Scripture to speak for itself.

How to Conduct an Inductive Bible Study

The inductive study method follows a structured approach that fosters deeper engagement and understanding.

The three steps are:

1. Observation – What does the text say?

This step focuses on carefully examining the passage to understand its content. Key questions to ask include: Who is speaking, and to whom? What is happening in the passage? When and where does this take place? Are there key words, repeated phrases, or contrasts? What is the tone or mood of the passage? What is the literary form (narrative, poetry, prophecy, epistle, etc.)?

When observing a text, read the passage multiple times, underline or highlight significant words and phrases, take notes on anything that stands out.

2. Interpretation – What does the text mean?

This step seeks to uncover the meaning behind the passage. It requires understanding the historical and literary context, the original audience, and the intended message. Ask yourself: What is the main idea or theme of the passage? What did this mean to the original audience? How does this passage fit within the larger biblical narrative? What does this reveal about God, humanity, and faith? Are there cross-references that provide deeper insight?

Some of the helpful tools for interpretation include: Comparing different Bible translations, using a Bible dictionary or concordance, studying cultural and historical backgrounds and looking at parallel passages and themes in Scripture

3. Application – How does the text apply to me?

The final step makes the passage personally relevant by reflecting on how it influences one's faith and daily life. What to consider during application includes: What lessons or truths can I apply to my life? Are there any attitudes or behaviors that need to change? How does this passage challenge or encourage me? What specific actions can I take based on what I've learned?

Some practical Steps for Application include: Writing down key takeaways and action steps, praying for guidance on applying Scripture and sharing insights with others for accountability and encouragement.

Why Choose Inductive Bible Study Over Other Methods?

Inductive Bible Study stands out from other study methods for several reasons:

- 1. Encourages personal engagement** – Instead of relying solely on external commentaries, inductive study helps individuals uncover biblical truths firsthand.
- 2. Provides a structured yet flexible approach** – It offers a clear framework while allowing room for personal discovery and reflection.
- 3. Enhances understanding of scripture** – By focusing on context and detailed analysis, it prevents misinterpretation and promotes deeper comprehension.
- 4. Fosters spiritual growth** – The process encourages transformation by applying God's word to daily life.
- 5. Works well for individual and group study** – It can be done alone or with others, making it a versatile approach for discipleship and teaching.

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JANUARY: THE SOURCE OF TRUE HOPE

Introduction

Hope is only as strong as its source. As believers, our hope is not based on wishful thinking or temporary circumstances but is anchored in the character and promises of God. True hope is found in Jesus Christ, who secured our salvation and gives us an eternal inheritance. This month, we will explore the foundation of our hope and why it is unwavering in Christ.

Study 1: A Living Hope through Christ

Text: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Peter reminds believers that their hope is alive because of Christ's resurrection. This hope is not fleeting but is secured in heaven, giving us confidence even in trials. Through faith, we rejoice in the assurance of salvation, knowing that God is refining us for His glory.

Study Questions

1. **Observation:** What does Peter say about the nature of our hope?

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2. **Interpretation:** How does the resurrection of Jesus make our hope “living”?

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3. **Application:** How can you cultivate joy and endurance in trials through the hope of resurrected Christ?

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Study 2: The Hope of Glory in Christ

Text: Colossians 1:24-29

Paul speaks of a profound mystery now revealed: Christ in us, the hope of glory. This passage highlights that our hope is not only for the future but is a present reality through Christ dwelling in us. It is a hope that empowers us to endure and fulfill our calling.

Study Questions

1. **Observation:** How does Paul describe the mystery of Christ?

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2. **Interpretation:** Why is Christ in us considered “the hope of glory”?

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3. **Application:** In what ways does the presence of Christ in you shape your daily life and purpose?

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Study 3: Hope in God’s Faithfulness

Text: Jeremiah 29:10-14

God’s message to the exiles in Babylon is one of restoration and hope. Even in captivity, He reassures them that He has plans for their future. This passage reminds us that hope is anchored in God’s faithfulness, regardless of our present struggles.

Study Questions

1. **Observation:** What promise does God give to His people in exile?

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2. **Interpretation:** How does God’s sovereignty provide hope in uncertain times?

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3. **Application:**

a) Have you ever been in a situation where you found it difficult to trust in God’s plan?

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b) How did you deal with the situation?

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Conclusion

While the temporal things of this world give us comfort in our day-to-day life, true hope is not found in wealth, status, or human effort but in Christ alone. He is our living hope, our glory, and the fulfillment of God's promises. As we grow in this understanding, let us live with confidence, knowing that our hope in Him will never fail.

Memory Verses: *"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* — Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

FEBRUARY: HOPE IN GOD'S PROMISES

Introduction

Hope becomes steadfast when it is rooted in the unchanging promises of God. Throughout Scripture, God assures His people of His faithfulness, and those who trust in Him find security in His word. This month, we will explore how God's promises provide strength, assurance, and renewal in times of need. True hope flourishes when we stand on His unfailing promises.

Study 1: Holding Firm to God's Promises

Text: Hebrews 10:19-25

In Hebrews, believers are encouraged to draw near to God and hold unswervingly to the hope they profess. This passage highlights the importance of faith, commitment, and perseverance in God's promises. When challenges arise, our confidence rests in the One who has promised and is faithful.

Study Questions

1. **Observation:** What does the passage say about our confidence in approaching God?

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2. **Interpretation:** How do God's promises sustain us in our walk of faith?

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3. **Application:** How can you encourage others to hold on to hope in their spiritual journey?

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Study 2: The Certainty of God's Promises

Text: Numbers 23:18-24

Balaam, though pressured to curse Israel, declares a profound truth: God does not lie or change His mind. His promises are sure and cannot be thwarted by human schemes. This passage reminds us that we can trust God fully because His word is unbreakable.

Study Questions

1. **Observation:** What does this passage reveal about the nature of God's promises?

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2. **Interpretation:** Why is it significant that God does not change His mind?

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3. **Application:** In what areas of your life do you need to trust God's promises more deeply and how does the certainty of God's promises help you?

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Study 3: Strength Renewed in God's Promises

Text: Isaiah 40:27-31

Isaiah reassures weary hearts that God never grows tired and gives strength to those who trust in Him. This passage is a beautiful reminder that placing our hope in the Lord renews our strength, enabling us to endure and thrive.

Study Questions

1. **Observation:** What contrast does the passage make between human frailty and God's power?

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2. **Interpretation:** What does it mean to "hope in the Lord," and how does it renew strength?

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3. **Application:** How can you practice waiting on God's promises in difficult times?

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Conclusion

God's promises are unshakable, and those who put their trust in Him will never be disappointed. His faithfulness guarantees that every promise He makes will come to pass. As we stand on these truths, let us encourage one another to live with unwavering hope in God's word.

Memory Verse: *"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful."* — Hebrews 10:23

MARCH: HOPE IN TIMES OF TROUBLE

Introduction

Hope shines brightest in times of trouble. When faced with trials, suffering, and uncertainty, it is easy to become discouraged. However, Scripture teaches us that tribulations are not the end of our story. Through perseverance and trust in God, we develop a hope that is refined and unshakable. This month, we will explore how God uses challenges to strengthen our hope and deepen our reliance on Him.

Study 1: Rejoicing in Suffering

Text: Romans 5:1-5

Paul teaches that suffering produces perseverance, character, and ultimately, hope. This passage reminds believers that our hope is not superficial but is grounded in the love of God, poured out through the Holy Spirit.

Study Questions

1. **Observation:** What does Paul say about the relationship between suffering and hope?

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2. **Interpretation:** How does endurance in trials shape our character and faith?

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3. **Application:** How can you maintain joy and hope even in the midst of hardships?

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Study 2: Treasure in Jars of Clay

Text: 2 Corinthians 4:7-12

Paul describes believers as fragile clay jars carrying the priceless treasure of the gospel. Though afflicted, they are never crushed. This passage highlights that suffering does not mean defeat but rather reveals the surpassing power of God.

Guiding Questions

- 1. **Observation:** How does Paul contrast human weakness with God’s strength?
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- 2. **Interpretation:** Why does God allow trials in the lives of believers?
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- 3. **Application:** How can you trust in God’s power when you feel weak and broken?
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Study 3: The Lord is Near to the Brokenhearted

Text: Psalm 34:15-22

David declares that God is near to those who are brokenhearted and rescues those crushed in spirit. This passage reassures us that God sees our struggles and delivers the righteous from their troubles.

Guiding Questions

- 1. **Observation:** What promises does God make to the righteous in this passage?
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- 2. **Interpretation:** How does this passage offer comfort to those experiencing hardship?
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- 3. **Application:** In what ways have you relied on God’s presence during difficult times?
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Conclusion

Trials refine our faith and deepen our trust in God. Though we may face suffering, we do not lose heart because God is at work in our lives. He strengthens us, sustains us, and ultimately delivers us from all trouble. Hope in times of trouble is not wishful thinking; it is the confident expectation that God will fulfill His promises.

Memory Verse: *"Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope." — Romans 5:3-4 (NIV)*

APRIL: HOPE IN THE SUFFERING AND DEATH OF OUR LORD

Introduction

The suffering and death of Jesus Christ stand at the heart of the Christian faith. While His agony on the cross was excruciating, it was not without purpose. His suffering was redemptive, bringing hope to humanity through the promise of salvation, reconciliation with God, and victory over sin and death. In this study, we will explore how Jesus' suffering and death were not signs of defeat but the very means by which hope is secured for all who believe. As we reflect on the Passion of Christ, we will uncover how His suffering brings us comfort, strengthens our faith, and assures us of our eternal hope in Him.

Study 1: The Suffering of Christ – A Foretold Hope

Text: Isaiah 53:3-7

Long before Jesus' crucifixion, the prophet Isaiah vividly described the suffering of the coming Messiah. This prophecy not only foretold the anguish Jesus would endure but also highlighted the redemptive purpose behind His suffering. Through His wounds, we are healed, and through His affliction, we find hope. Understanding that Christ's suffering was part of God's plan helps us find meaning in our own trials, knowing that God's purposes are always at work even in pain.

Study Questions

1. **Observation:** What descriptions of the suffering servant stand out in Isaiah 53:3-7?

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2. **Interpretation:** What does it mean "the punishment that brought us peace was on Him"? (v.5)

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3. **Application:** How does Christ's suffering give you hope in your personal struggles today?

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Study 2: The Death of Christ – A Sacrificial Hope

Matthew 27:45-54

Introduction

The death of Jesus was not an ordinary execution—it was the culmination of God’s redemptive plan. As darkness covered the land and the temple curtain was torn, creation itself bore witness to the significance of this moment. Jesus’ cry, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” echoes the depths of His suffering. Yet, even in death, His sacrifice opened the way for humanity’s reconciliation with God. This section explores how the death of Christ, though sorrowful, is the foundation of our eternal hope.

Study Questions

- 1. Observation:** What supernatural events accompanied Jesus’ death, and why are they significant?

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- 2. Interpretation:** How does Jesus’ death fulfill God’s plan for redemption?

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- 3. Application:** How should the reality of Jesus’ sacrifice shape your daily life and faith in the context of hope?

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Study 3: The Resurrection – The Triumph of Hope

Text: 1 Corinthians 15:20-22

The suffering and death of Jesus would have been meaningless without the resurrection. Paul declares that Christ’s resurrection is the firstfruits of those who have died, ensuring the hope of eternal life for all who trust in Him. Death is not the end; rather, it is the beginning of our true life in Christ. In this section, we will see how the resurrection secures our victory over sin and death and how it calls us to live in the hope of eternal life.

Study Questions

1. **Observation:** What does Paul mean by calling Christ the “firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep”?

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2. **Interpretation:** How does Christ’s resurrection guarantee our own resurrection?

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3. **Application:** In what ways can a Christian live daily in the hope of the resurrection?

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Conclusion:

The suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ form the foundation of our hope. His suffering was not in vain; it was the fulfillment of God's redemptive plan, bringing healing, reconciliation, and ultimate victory over sin and death. His death was the ultimate sacrifice, opening the way for eternal life, and His resurrection is the guarantee of our own triumph over the grave. As believers, we find comfort in knowing that our trials are not meaningless, and just as Christ's suffering led to glory, so too does our hope remain steadfast in Him.

1 Peter 1:3 (NIV) – *"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."*

MAY: THE ROLE OF FAITH IN HOPE

Monthly Introduction

Faith and hope are inseparable in the Christian journey. Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things unseen (Hebrews 11:1). Without faith, our hope would be baseless; without hope, faith would lack direction. This month, we will explore how faith strengthens our hope, enabling us to trust in God's promises even when circumstances seem uncertain.

Study 1: Faith as the Foundation of Hope

Text: Hebrews 11:1-3 (NIV)

The writer of Hebrews defines faith as confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This passage highlights the deep connection between faith and hope, showing that faith provides the substance for our hope in God's promises.

Study Questions

1. **Observation:** How does Hebrew define faith, and what examples from history illustrate it?

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2. **Interpretation:** Why is faith necessary for hope to be effective?

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3. **Application:** How can you strengthen your faith so that your hope remains firm?

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Study 2: Hope in Expectation

Text: Romans 8:22-25

Paul describes the longing of creation and believers alike, waiting in eager expectation for the fulfillment of God's promises. Hope that is seen is no hope at all; true hope requires faith in what is yet to come.

Study Questions

1. **Observation:** What does Paul say about hope and patience?

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2. **Interpretation:** Why does true hope require waiting and trust in God's timing?

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3. **Application:** Which areas in your life do you need to cultivate patience while hoping on God?

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Study 3: Walking by Faith, Not by Sight

Text: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 (NIV)

Paul reminds believers that while we live in this world, we walk by faith and not by sight. This passage challenges us to trust God's plans even when we cannot see the full picture, reinforcing the connection between faith and hope.

Study Questions

1. **Observation:** How does Paul contrast walking by faith with living by sight?

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2. **Interpretation:** What does it mean to have confidence in God despite not seeing the outcome?

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3. **Application:** What steps have you taken in the past to live with faith and hope in daily decisions?

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Conclusion

Faith gives substance to our hope, and hope strengthens our faith. Together, they enable us to trust in God's promises, endure challenges, and live with confidence. By deepening our faith, we build an unshakable hope that sustains us in every season of life.

Memory Verse: *"But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently."* — **Romans 8:25** (NIV)

JUNE: CHRIST AS THE ANCHOR OF OUR HOPE

Introduction

In life's storms, we need an anchor that holds firm and secure. Christ is that anchor, providing stability, strength, and hope in uncertain times. Unlike the fleeting securities of this world, Jesus remains constant and unshakable. This month, we will explore what it means for Christ to be our anchor and how we can hold onto Him in every circumstance.

Study 1: A Hope That Anchors the Soul

Text: Hebrews 6:19-20

The writer of Hebrews describes hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. This passage reminds us that our hope is rooted in the unchanging nature of God's promises, fulfilled through Jesus Christ.

Study Questions

1. **Observation:** How does the passage describe our hope in Christ?

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2. **Interpretation:** Why is Christ compared to an anchor, and what does this mean for our faith?

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3. **Application:** How can a Christian rely on Christ as an anchor in challenging times?

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Study 2: Finding Rest in God Alone

Text: Psalm 62:1-8

David expresses complete trust in God, calling Him a rock, salvation, and fortress. This passage emphasises the peace and security found in trusting God alone.

Study Questions

1. **Observation:** How does David describe his dependence on God?

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2. **Interpretation:** What does it mean to rest in God as our refuge and fortress?

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3. **Application:** In what areas of your life do you need to trust God more fully?

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Study 3: Building on a Solid Foundation

Text: Matthew 7:24-25 (NIV)

Jesus teaches about the importance of building our lives on a solid foundation. Those who hear and obey His words are like a wise man who builds on the rock, ensuring stability in times of trouble.

Study Questions

1. **Observation:** What contrast does Jesus make between building on rock and sand?

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2. **Interpretation:** Why is obedience to Christ's teaching essential for a strong foundation?

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3. **Application:** How can you build your life more firmly on Christ's teachings?

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Conclusion

Christ is our unshakable anchor, our place of refuge, and our firm foundation. In every trial, He remains steadfast, holding us securely. When we place our trust in Him, we find true stability and peace.

Memory Verse: *"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain."* — Hebrews 6:19 (NIV)

JULY: UNDERSTANDING AND AVOIDING FALSE HOPE

Introduction

Hope is essential for a meaningful and fulfilling life, but not all hope is true or lasting. False hope is deceptive—it offers temporary comfort but ultimately leads to disappointment and destruction. Many people place their hope in human philosophies, material wealth, or religious traditions that lack Christ. This month, we will explore how to discern false hope and anchor ourselves in the true hope found in Jesus.

Study 1: The Deception of False Philosophies

Text: Colossians 2:6-15

Paul warns believers against being taken captive by hollow and deceptive philosophies that depend on human traditions rather than Christ. Many ideologies promise hope, but only faith in Jesus provides true freedom and security. By being rooted in Christ, we guard ourselves against worldly teachings that lead to false hope.

Study Questions

1. **Observation:** What does Paul warn the Colossians about in verse 8?

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2. **Interpretation:** How does Paul describe the fullness believers have in Christ? (Verses 9-10)

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3. **Application:** In what ways can we ensure our hope is anchored in Christ rather than deceptive teachings?

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Study 2: The Danger of a Distorted Gospel

Text: Galatians 1:6-10

Paul strongly rebukes those who preach a different gospel, warning that any message apart from the true gospel of Christ is a false hope. Many are led astray by teachings that mix truth with error, but the gospel of grace must remain pure. Those who seek approval from men rather than God may fall into this deception, but true hope rests in the unchanging message of salvation through Christ.

Study Questions:

1. **Observation:** What does Paul say about those who preach a different gospel?

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2. **Interpretation:** Why is Paul so strict about preserving the purity of the gospel?

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3. **Application:** How can we discern and reject false gospels in today's world?

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Study 3: The Ending of the Wicked and the Righteous

Text: Proverbs 10:27-32

The book of Proverbs contrasts the fate of the righteous and the wicked. While the wicked may seem to prosper for a time, their hope ultimately perishes. True hope is found in walking in righteousness, fearing the Lord, and living according to His ways. The words of the righteous bring life, but the hopes of the wicked are cut short. This passage reminds us to place our trust in God, whose promises are eternal.

Study Questions:

1. **Observation:** According to verse 28, what is the difference between the hopes of the righteous and the wicked?

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2. **Interpretation:** How does the fear of the Lord lead to a lasting hope?

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3. **Application:** What steps can we take to ensure our hope is based on righteousness rather than temporary worldly success?

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Conclusion:

False hope is one of the greatest dangers a believer can face. It is deceptive, offering temporary comfort but ultimately leading to disappointment. This month's studies reveal that false hope often stems from human traditions, distorted teachings, and misplaced trust in worldly things. Colossians 2 warns us against empty philosophies, Galatians 1 cautions us about false gospels, and Proverbs 10 shows us the stark contrast between the fate of the righteous and the wicked.

True and lasting hope is found only in Christ. When we are firmly rooted in Him, we are not easily swayed by deception. This study challenges us to examine where we place our hope and to ensure that it is grounded in the unshakable truth of God's Word. By doing so, we build a faith that endures and a hope that never fails.

Memory Verse: Galatians 1:9 – *"If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse!"*

AUGUST: HOPE IN SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Introduction

Hope is not meant to be kept to ourselves—it is a gift that must be shared with others. As believers, we are called to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ so that others may also find the hope that transforms lives. Sharing the love of Christ is both a privilege and a responsibility. This month, we will explore how hope motivates us to evangelise, defend our faith, and actively participate in God's mission.

Study 1: The Great Commission – A Call to Share Hope

Matthew 28:18-20

Before ascending to heaven, Jesus gave His disciples the Great Commission—to go and make disciples of all nations. This command is rooted in hope, as it calls us to share the life-giving message of salvation with the world. Our hope in Christ compels us to spread His love, knowing that He is with us always as we fulfill His mission.

Study Questions:

1. **Observation:** What does Jesus command His disciples to do in this passage?

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2. **Interpretation:** Why does Jesus say, "I am with you always" at the end of this command?

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3. **Application:** How can we be intentional in making disciples in our daily lives?

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Study 2: Defending Our Hope with Gentleness and Respect

1 Peter 3:15-18

As followers of Christ, we must always be ready to give an answer for the hope we have. However, this should be done with gentleness and respect, reflecting the character of Christ. Sharing the gospel is not about winning arguments but about pointing people to the true source of hope. Even in suffering, we can testify to the power of Christ's love and the eternal hope He provides.

Study Questions:

1. **Observation:** What does Peter say about how we should respond to those who ask about our hope?

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2. **Interpretation:** How does suffering for doing good relate to sharing our hope?

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3. **Application:** How can we better prepare ourselves to share our faith with others?

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Study 3: The Urgency of Proclaiming the Gospel

Romans 10:14-15

The gospel is the message of hope, but how will people believe if they have never heard? Paul emphasises the importance of preaching the good news, reminding us that faith comes through hearing. We are the messengers of hope, called to bring the love of Christ to those who have not yet received it. Blessed are those who bring the good news, for they participate in God's mission of salvation.

Study Questions:

1. **Observation:** According to this passage, what is necessary for people to believe in Christ?

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2. **Interpretation:** Why does Paul emphasise the role of those who preach the gospel?

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3. **Application:** What steps can we take to be more proactive in sharing the gospel?

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Conclusion:

The hope we have in Christ is not meant to be hidden—it is meant to be shared. This month’s studies have shown that evangelism is an essential response to the hope we have received. Through the Great Commission, Jesus commands us to make disciples. Peter urges us to be ready to defend our hope with gentleness and respect. Paul reminds us of the urgency of proclaiming the gospel, as faith comes through hearing the message of Christ.

As we go through life, let us not keep the hope of salvation to ourselves. Instead, let us boldly and lovingly share the love of Christ with those around us. Whether through words, actions, or the testimony of our lives, we are called to be ambassadors of the living hope that changes hearts and brings eternal life.

Memory Verse:

Romans 10:15 – *"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"*

SEPTEMBER: HOPE IN CHRIST'S SERVICE

Introduction:

Serving others is not merely a duty—it is a hopeful response to God's grace. When we serve with love, humility, and faith, we express our confident hope that God is actively working through us. Service, rooted in hope, reflects the life and ministry of Jesus who came not to be served but to serve. As we serve, we become carriers of His light and love in a broken world, trusting that every act of faithfulness contributes to God's redemptive plan.

Study 1: Serving with Compassion

Text: Luke 10:26–37

In this passage, Jesus tells the parable of the Good Samaritan to illustrate what it means to truly love one's neighbour. The Samaritan's willingness to help someone in need, despite cultural differences and personal inconvenience, reveals a heart of compassionate service. This is the kind of hope-filled service Jesus calls us to—one that breaks down walls, takes risks, and reflects God's mercy.

Study Questions

1. **Observation:** What actions did the Samaritan take that set him apart from the priest and the Levite?
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2. **Interpretation:** What does this parable reveal about the nature of true compassion and who our “neighbour” is?
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3. **Application:** How can you be more aware of the needs around you and take practical steps to serve others with compassion this week?
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Study 2: Serving in Humility

Mark 10:35–45

James and John's request for honour reveals a common human desire for status. Jesus, however, redirects the conversation toward servanthood. He teaches that true greatness is found in humility and selfless service. As Christ's followers, we serve not for recognition but from the hopeful assurance that God honours the lowly and lifts up the humble.

1. **Observation:** What was the disciples’ request, and how did Jesus respond to it?

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2. **Interpretation:** What does Jesus’s teaching about servanthood reveal about the values of His Kingdom?

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3. **Application:** In what areas of your life can you choose humility over recognition and serve like Christ?

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Study 3: Serving through Our Gifts

Romans 12:3–8

Paul urges believers to view themselves with sober judgment and to recognize that each one has a role to play in the body of Christ. We are equipped with unique gifts to serve others, and when we offer those gifts in hope, the Church is strengthened. Our faithful service, no matter how small, contributes to a larger work of transformation and renewal.

1. **Observation:** What instructions does Paul give regarding how we should view ourselves and use our gifts?

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2. **Interpretation:** How do spiritual gifts contribute to unity and effectiveness in the body of Christ?

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3. Application: What is one gift God has given you, and how can you intentionally use it to serve others this month?

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Memory Verse:

"...We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us." – Romans 12:6a

OCTOBER: BUILDING LASTING RELATIONSHIPS IN HOPE

Introduction

Relationships are a core part of our human experience, but many relationships are fleeting and superficial. As believers, we are called to build relationships that are rooted in love, unity, and faith. True, lasting relationships are anchored in Christ and reflect His love. This month, we explore how hope strengthens our relationships, fosters unity, and sustains love over time.

Study 1: Walking in Fellowship with God

Text: Genesis 5:21-24

Enoch’s relationship with God was so intimate that he “walked faithfully with God” until God took him. His life is a testimony that true, lasting relationships—especially our relationship with God—require faithfulness, obedience, and continual communion.

Study Questions:

- 1. **Observation:** What does the passage say about Enoch’s Walk with God?
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- 2. **Interpretation:** What does it mean to "walk with God" in a practical sense?
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- 3. **Application:** How can you cultivate a deeper relationship with God in your daily life?
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Study 2: Lasting Family Bond

Text: Psalm 133:1-3

This psalm beautifully describes the blessing of unity among God’s people. True unity is compared to sacred anointing oil and the refreshing dew, symbolising divine favor, harmony, and the presence of God.

Study Questions:

1. **Observation:** How does the psalmist describe unity among God’s people?

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2. **Interpretation:** Why does God bless unity among His people?

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3. **Application:** What steps can you take to promote unity within your family or community?

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Study 3: United Church

Text: 1 Peter 1:22-25

Peter encourages believers to love one another deeply and sincerely, as we have been purified through obedience to the truth. This kind of love is not temporary or superficial but comes from a transformed heart and is sustained by God’s eternal Word.

Study Questions:

1. **Observation:** What kind of love does Peter call believers to demonstrate?

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2. **Interpretation:** How is sincere love connected to obedience to God’s truth?

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3. **Application:** In what practical ways can you show deep and sincere love to others?

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Conclusion:

Relationships that endure are those built on faith, love, and unity. Enoch's walk with God reminds us that our most important relationship is with our Creator. The psalmist calls us to unity, which brings blessings, and Peter challenges us to love deeply from the heart. As we seek to build meaningful relationships, let us do so with hope, knowing that when our connections are founded on God's truth, they will stand the test of time.

Memory Verse:

1 Peter 1:22 – "Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart."

NOVEMBER: HOPE THROUGH THE STRENGTHENING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Introduction

The Christian journey is not one we walk alone or in our own strength. God has given us the Holy Spirit to empower, guide, and strengthen us. Through the Spirit, we find renewed hope, perseverance, and a deeper connection with God. This month, we will explore how the Holy Spirit strengthens us and fills us with hope for our daily walk and future glory.

Study 1: The Promise of the Holy Spirit

Text: Joel 2:28-32

Joel prophesied about the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, a promise that was fulfilled at Pentecost and continues today. The Spirit empowers all who believe, regardless of status, age, or background, giving them visions, dreams, and boldness to declare God's truth.

Study Questions:

1. **Observation:** What does God promise to do in this passage?

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2. **Interpretation:** What is the significance of the Holy Spirit being poured out on "all people"?

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3. **Application:** How can you be more open to the Holy Spirit's work in your life?

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Study 2: The Spirit's Power for Witnessing

Text: Acts 2:5-13

On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit filled the disciples, enabling them to speak in different languages and proclaim the works of God to people from various nations. This event demonstrated that the Spirit empowers believers to boldly share the message of Christ.

Study Questions:

1. **Observation:** How did people react when they heard the disciples speaking in their own languages?

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2. **Interpretation:** What does this passage teach us about the power of the Holy Spirit in evangelism?

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3. **Application:** How can a Christian rely on the Holy Spirit when sharing your faith?

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Study 3: The Spirit as Our Intercessor

Text: Romans 8:26-27

Paul teaches that the Holy Spirit is the one who intercedes for us since he knows our needs and also understands the mind of God. This should give us unshakable hope. The Spirit's intercessory sustains us in difficult times and reassures us of God's promises.

Study Questions:

1. **Observation:** What role does the Holy Spirit play in our prayers?

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2. **Interpretation:** How does the Spirit's interceding for us change our perspective in difficult situations, and how does that give you hope?

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3. **Application:** In what areas of your life do you need to rely more on the Holy Spirit interceding for you?

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Conclusion:

This month, we have explored the vital role of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Joel's prophecy reminds us that the Spirit has been given to all believers, empowering us for service. The Pentecost experience shows that the Spirit enables us to share the gospel with boldness. Finally, Paul assures us that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, thus filling us with hope and peace and sustaining us through life's challenges. As we walk in faith, may we continually seek the Spirit's guidance, strength, and hope.

Memory Verse: *Romans 15:13 – "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."*

DECEMBER: HOPE IN THE RETURN OF CHRIST AND ETERNAL GLORY

Introduction

The Christian hope is not just for this life but extends beyond death into eternity. Our greatest hope is in the return of Jesus Christ and the promise of eternal glory with Him. It is for this reason that we are expected to firmly anchor our hope on Christ's return and the promise of eternal life. This month, we will reflect on what the Bible teaches about Christ's second coming, the resurrection of believers, and the eternal joy that awaits those who remain faithful.

Study 1: The Blessed Hope of Christ's Return

Text: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Paul assures believers that those who have died in Christ will rise again when He returns. The second coming of Christ is our blessed hope, bringing eternal reunion and joy for all who trust in Him.

Study Questions:

1. **Observation:** What events will take place when Christ returns?

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2. **Interpretation:** How does this passage provide comfort and assurance to believers?

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3. **Application:** How does the promise of Christ's return shape the way you live today?

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Study 2: The Victory over Death

Text: 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Study Questions:

1. **Observation:** What does Paul say will happen to our bodies at the resurrection?

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2. **Interpretation:** Why is the resurrection central to the Christian hope?

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3. **Application:** How does the certainty of victory over death affect your faith and daily choices?

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Study 3: Entering God's Eternal Rest

Text: Hebrews 4:1-7

God's promise of eternal rest remains for those who believe and persevere in faith. Just as the Israelites were called to enter the Promised Land, we are called to enter God's eternal rest through Christ.

Study Questions:

1. **Observation:** What does this passage teach about entering God's rest?

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2. **Interpretation:** How does the concept of God's rest relate to eternal life?

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3. **Application:** What steps can you take to ensure that you remain faithful and enter into God's eternal rest?

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Conclusion:

The certainty of resurrection gives us courage in the face of death and other losses we encounter in our lives. The victory over sin and death assures us that our struggles are temporary. And the invitation to enter God's eternal rest reminds us to remain faithful to the end. As we close the year, may we fix our eyes on Jesus, eagerly awaiting His return and living in the hope of eternal glory with Him.

Memory Verse: *1 Corinthians 15:54 – "When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory.'"*

[illegible]



P.C.E.A. St. Andrew's Parish is one of the parishes that constitute Milimani North Presbytery, within the larger Nairobi region. It is one of the oldest parishes of this Church and thus carries a lot of history of the Church. We are strategically located within the Nairobi CBD with our members spreading all over Nairobi city and its environs. We also have a rich online congregation that constitute of international and local congregants. Over the years the Parish has grown, giving birth to many established parishes within Nairobi region. Currently the Parish has two congregation, namely: P.C.E.A. St. Andrew's and P.C.E.A. Kileleshwa which combined have a total of 35 Elder Districts with potential of creating more Elder Districts.

This study guide has been put together to enhance members understanding and grounding themselves with the annual theme. It has been put together through the dedication of the P.C.E.A. St. Andrew's pastoral team. The pastoral team constitute of: The Very Rev. Dr. Julius Guantai Mwamba who is the Session Moderator, Rev. Simon Mukundi in charge of Kileleshwa congregation, Rev. Jacob N'doffo Tolno in-charge of French congregation. Also constituting the pastoral team is David Ndegerege – Youth Pastor, Andrew Nyumu – Children Ministry Coordinator, Samuel Kimui – The Youth, Teens & Children's coordinator at P.C.E.A. Kileleshwa congregation. The team also include Associate Ministers: Rev. Phyllis Byrd Ochilo, Rev. Prof. Gerishon M. Kirika (Rt.), Rev. Prof. Peter Kariuki (Rt.), and Rev. Ananie Nduwamungu (Rt.).

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