

APPLICATION

- What are some of the more natural reactions you have towards the future? What did you learn from today's lesson and how can you look to the future with hope?
- Do you believe that God will redeem our bodies and creation? What is one thing you can do on a regular basis in light of this?
- How can you share your hope with others this week? What do you think you can tell them?

PRAYER

- Thank God for the privilege of living in hope because of who He is and what He has done for you. Pray that you would have a godly perspective of the redemption God has planned for our bodies and for all creation.
- Ask God for a kingdom perspective and mentality that allows you to live in hope and trust Him above all else. Pray for His kingdom to advance on earth in light of our future hope.
- Pray for family members and friends who are not saved yet. Pray that they would put their hope in God. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the words to say as you share this hope in Christ with others.

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Future Hope

WEEK 3

WARM-UP

- Do you like surprises? Why or why not?
- Are you the type of person who skips to the end of books or movies to know how the story ends? Why or why not?
- How would you know if a person is feeling hopeless?

WORD *¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. **ROMANS 8:18-21***

(Read also **ROMANS 8:22-25**.)

Our hope is based on God's nature and character. We hope for things that are going to happen, and are confident that these will come to pass. That's why even if the present is challenging, we can trust God for the good things that are to come. What are the things we know God will do, and why can we wait in hope?



1 | Our hope is that God will redeem our bodies.

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. .

*. . ²³And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. **ROMANS 8:18, 23***

Aging, sickness, disability, weakness, and suffering are part of our human condition. But for believers, this is not the end. We can expect in hope that God will redeem our bodies. This means that we will eventually have a body that will neither suffer nor degenerate. Why do you think it is important for believers to understand this? What would happen if we focus only on our present condition rather than our future hope?

2 | Our hope is that God will redeem creation.

¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

ROMANS 8:19-21

God promises that He will not only redeem our bodies—He will also redeem creation. This means that the whole world will be redeemed by God. This means that there will be no

more death and decay, and the entire world will be restored to a pristine condition. Even creation is excited and eager for God's restoration. How can believers wait in hope for this to come to pass?

3 | Our hope cannot be presently seen.

*²⁴For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. **ROMANS 8:24-25***

If our hope can be seen, it is not hope. In contrast with a world that asks for evidence and tangible proof, believers wait in unseen hope for things that can't yet be seen. We are to patiently wait. We are not to be passive, panic, or live in fear. God is the one we put our hope in, and we trust Him fully. We do not have a worldly mentality—we have a kingdom mentality. What do you think having a kingdom mentality looks like in your life and situation? How do you express this in what you do and say?
