

HOPE FOR ADDICTION  
*disciple making*  
TOOLS

*Who is God?*  
and why did he create me?

*Beginning*  
**HOPE**  
VIDEO SERIES

# *Beginning Hope*

Access videos:

[hopeforaddiction.com/beginning-hope](https://hopeforaddiction.com/beginning-hope)

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# *Beginning Hope:* Introduction

What is your understanding of God? Who is God?

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How do you think the world and humanity came to exist?

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Who is Jesus?

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How would you define sin? Have you ever heard that word?

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Have you ever attended church? Have you read the Bible? Explain.

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What happens when you die?

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In what ways do you feel discontent, unhappy, dissatisfied, discouraged, confused, frustrated?  
In what ways have you tried to find happiness, belonging and purpose?

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Do you wonder what your purpose is, why you are here? Explain.

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**Prepare for next week:**

- watch **Beginning Hope: Creation - Where it all began**
- complete the questions on pages 3-4

# *Beginning Hope:* Creation - Where it all began

What thoughts or questions do you have about the biblical account of creation; God created everything, even mankind? Have you ever considered how incredible creation actually is?

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How has your understanding of God or creation changed? Explain.

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2 Timothy 3:16 ESV

*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

The Bible is God's very words to us. The Bible is true, without error and gives us truths about God and his plan for all of mankind, even us. Is this description of the Bible new to you? Explain.

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Do you think that knowing the Bible is true and without error is important? Why?

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Genesis 1:27 ESV

*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

God created man and woman in his likeness, meaning humans are created differently from all other creatures. Men and women were created to live for God and glorify him. Adam and Eve lived in perfect harmony with God in the garden until they were tempted by Satan to doubt God's goodness and love for them. Adam and Eve believed the lie that God was withholding good things and they disobeyed God. This disobedience and rebellion toward God brought sin into the world and shattered the perfect harmony between God and mankind.

Can you recognize the same temptation to doubt God's goodness toward you? In what ways have you believed this lie and turned to people or things to bring comfort or to fulfill you?

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In what ways do you or have you experienced suffering in your life? Have you ever thought about suffering being a result of Adam and Eve's rebellion toward God? What questions do you have about this?

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**Prepare for next week:**

- **read Genesis chapters 1, 2 and 3, write down any questions to discuss with your discipleship leader**
- **watch *Beginning Hope: The Fall - The Curse of Sin***
- **complete the questions on pages 5-6**

# *Beginning Hope:* The Fall - The Curse of Sin

When Adam and Eve sinned, they hid from God. Why do you think they did this?

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Can you relate to the feelings Adam and Eve had when they hid from God? Is there a specific situation where you hid in shame? Did it fix the situation??

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How did God respond to Adam and Eve when they sinned and hid from Him?

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We sin when we chase after something other than God. When something is more important to us than God, it's called \_\_\_\_\_.

*Galatians 5:19-21*

*Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

At the root of these sins is the desire to control our own lives and live for our own pleasures without any thought about God.

With this definition of sin, what idols do you struggle with? What are the things that become more important to you than God? In what ways have you tried to control your life and live for the things that you want?

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None of us is perfect and we all need rescue. In God's love for his creation, he had a rescue plan even though we do not deserve it. This is good news for us!

What questions do you have about this session?

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**Prepare for next week:**

- **read Mark 15:16-47**
- **watch Beginning Hope: The Life and death of Jesus - God's Rescue**
- **complete the questions on pages 7-8**



# *Beginning Hope:* The Life and Death of Jesus - God's Rescue

We are all unrighteous compared to God. Just like Adam and Eve, our rebellion toward God separates us. The good news is that God doesn't leave us hopeless in our sin.

After learning about sin in the last session, do you now see yourself as a sinner? Is it hard for you to admit or believe that you are a sinner? Why?

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What was God's rescue plan?

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John 3:16 ESV

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

Romans 5:19 ESV

*For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.*

Adam's sin brought sin into the world and we are all sinners as a result. But Jesus, being perfect, and obeying God perfectly, made it possible for those who believe in him to be made righteous, which means without guilt and in right standing before God.

Gospel means \_\_\_\_\_. This good news refers to the coming of Jesus to rescue all those who place faith in him.

2 Corinthians 5:21 ESV

*For our sake he (God) made him (Jesus) to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Jesus lived a perfect life, without sin. When he died on the cross, he received the full wrath, anger and punishment from God so that those who follow him will never receive God's punishment.

What have you done or tried to do in order to live a good life? The standard is perfection... How did you do in meeting this standard?

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Do you believe your sin is enough to require Jesus to die on the cross? Explain.

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Think of the worst thing you've ever done and the guilt and shame you feel. Jesus, who was innocent, received the punishment for your sin. By taking God's anger and punishment for your sin, he also took your guilt and shame so that you don't have carry it.

Instead of hiding from God like Adam and Eve, those who follow Jesus, can come to him and receive forgiveness.

What thoughts or questions do you have about this?

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When the hero of the story dies, it is usually the end of the story. But Jesus didn't stay dead....

**Prepare for next week:**

- **read Luke 24:1-12**
- **watch Beginning Hope: The Resurrection**
- **complete the questions on pages 9-10**

# *Beginning Hope:* The Resurrection

When Jesus came back to life, he conquered sin and death. His resurrection is relevant for our past, our present and our future.

What sins from your past weigh on you the most? What sin do you think is too big to be forgiven? Explain.

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Hebrews 4:14-16 ESV

*Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

It is easy to feel alone or think that God doesn't care about you. The truth is that Jesus was tempted and experienced great suffering when he lived on the earth. Because of this, he knows our pain and trials and he can be a comfort and help for us when we call out to him. We can be confident that when we do he will hear and give us grace, mercy and help in our time of need.

Do you have fears that God won't love you if you mess up or fail? Does this make it difficult for you to believe God's promises? Explain.

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Romans 8:1 ESV

*There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

The resurrection of Jesus proves that he conquered sin and death and by doing that ensures that everyone who follows him will be with him in heaven one day. Just as Jesus's death was not the end of the story, when we die, that is not the end of our story either. If we are followers of Jesus, we will be reunited with Jesus in heaven and live with him forever.

The New Testament begins with 4 books called "the Gospels." Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are eyewitness accounts of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. These are real people in history who saw Jesus alive after his crucifixion and recounted the same events.

What questions do you have about the resurrection or heaven?

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The Bible is God's Word to us and it is a historical account of real-life situations - not just stories. Do you believe these things actually happened? Explain.

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Over the past few weeks you have learned many things about God, Jesus and yourself. What thoughts or questions do you have?

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**Prepare for next week:**

- **read the gospel of Matthew (you may not finish, that's okay)**
- **watch Beginning Hope: New Life in Christ**
- **complete the questions on pages 11-12**

# *Beginning Hope:* New Life in Christ

With all the truths of the gospel that you've learned, how do you make it practical and how does it matter for your every day life? As a follower of Jesus you are **already** freed from the penalty of sin, free from the slavery of sin, but you are **not yet** with Jesus in heaven, so you are still tempted.

Romans 6:12-14 ESV

*Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.*

What temptations are the most difficult for you? Does fighting against sin seem impossible? Explain.

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When Jesus returned to heaven to sit at the right hand of the throne of God, he didn't leave us alone. He sent the Holy Spirit to be our helper. If you are a follower of Jesus, he is in heaven praying for you and the Holy Spirit helps you in your suffering and helps you know how to live for God.

Romans 8:34 ESV

*Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.*

John 14:26 ESV

*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.*

Do you feel comforted to know you are not alone and that God gives you a Helper for this life? Explain.

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God created the church to be the place to grow and understand him more. What concerns do you have as you think about connecting into a local church?

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When you become a follower of Jesus, you are made right before God and declared “not guilty” because Jesus paid the penalty for your sin and took the wrath of God. This is called justification and there is nothing you do to earn being justified. Change happens over your entire life when you read your Bible, learn more about God and make efforts to glorify him. This is called sanctification, and living life with other believers in the church is a critical part of the Christian life.

How has your understanding of God changed? Are you more hopeful or see your life more clearly after learning more about the gospel? What questions do you have about this session?

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**Prepare for next steps:**

- **finish reading the gospel of Matthew**
- **if you are not yet attending a gospel teaching church, look for one and attend**
- **talk with your Christian friend about the next steps to keep growing in your understanding of who Jesus is and how a relationship with him changes your life**
- **if you need help with next steps, contact Hope for Addiction ([connect@hopeforaddiction.com](mailto:connect@hopeforaddiction.com))**

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