Getting Started

Would you describe yourself as a hopeful person? What does that mean for you?

What makes hope hard to hang on to?

Into the Bible

Read 1 Peter 1:3-4. What has God given us?

Note the *into*. What two things are parallel because of the into in this sentence?

What do you suppose *a living hope* means? What would be a *dead* hope? How is our hope made alive by an inheritance?

What is the foundation of our new birth and our living hope? That is, what has God done that serves as the guarantee of it?

Consider the following passages. What gets in the way of our hope? Conversely, according to these passages, what sustains us in our hope?

Romans 8:18-25, 31-36—

2 Corinthians 4:8-9—

2 Corinthians 6:4-10—

Look at 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. How do you feel about labeling your troubles *light and momentary*? Light and momentary in contrast to what?

According to Hebrews 12:1-2, what is the only way to persevere in this new birth into a living hope that Peter talks about?

Digging Deeper

In your life, what is stealing your hope? When your present is particularly hard, do you find any comfort in the idea of a future reward?

How do you cultivate a sense of hope, especially when life is difficult?