

Hope in Tough Times

Discussion Questions:

- 1. How does knowing that you are a beloved child of God impact how you deal with difficult times and situations in your life? Has there been a time when you have forgotten your true identity as a child of God? What did that look like and feel like? Who or what helps you remember that you are a child of God?**
- 2. The Bible tells us that Jesus is Emanuel, God with us. When have you experienced God's presence in your life? How has God's presence made a difference for you?**
- 3. How has God brought hope to a hopeless situation for you? When have you seen God make a way out of no way?**
- 4. As citizens of hope, how can we best share that hope with others in our community and world?**



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Sheri Clifton



Isaiah 43:1-7

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.



For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life.



Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth – everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."



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Romans 5:1–5

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.



“Jesus is just alright with me.”



“Jesus stays up all night with me.”



Matthew 28:20b

“And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”



Isaiah 43:19

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.



Admiral Jim Stockdale



- Shot down over North Vietnam
- Spent eight years in the "Hanoi Hilton"
- Tortured over twenty times
- No prisoners rights





Admiral James Stockdale

"You must never confuse faith that you will prevail in the end – which you can never afford to lose – with the discipline to confront the most brutal facts of your current reality, whatever they might be."



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Peter 1:3–5

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.



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