

Never, Never, Never Give Up

Hope

Hope. It kept POWs alive in Vietnam. Hope. It kept Martin Luther King marching for freedom. Hope. It's a powerful emotion that is at the bottom of healing – and without it, healing is too often completely impossible. Hope. And yet, hope is not a very good strategy. Behind hope there lies something intangible. In The Conversation this week, we'll look under the hood of hope to see if we can figure out how it works.

Jeremiah 31:31–34

1. There is no hope in _____.
2. Rules and _____ give us _____.
3. The New Covenant does away with _____ and _____.
4. The New Covenant isn't about _____ it's about _____.

My Count Me In! Commitments

- I'll be here next Sunday
- I'll invite a friend
- I will honestly evaluate my faith
- I want to engage the Directions Discipleship Course
- I am interested in attending the next Getting Started Lunch

Additional Notes

Digging Deeper, Going Further

Monday

Read: Genesis 45

1. How did Joseph show his commitment to his family?
2. Why did Pharaoh so warmly welcome Joseph's family to Egypt?

Reflect: Why do you think the writer of Genesis put so much emphasis on relationships?

Tuesday

Read: Genesis 46

1. What covenant did God give to Jacob?
2. How did Joseph leverage the Egyptian culture to ensure safety for his family?

Reflect: Considering Sunday's Conversation, what was the basis for the Israelite religion during Jacob's time? Why do you think so?

Wednesday

Read: Genesis 47

1. Why did the Egyptians put themselves into debt to the Pharaoh?
2. What long-lasting law did Pharaoh (Joseph) impose on the Egyptian people?

Reflect: How do rules and law make us "slaves" to others? What is the remedy?

Thursday

Read: Genesis 48

1. Why was Jacob so joyful when he saw Joseph again?
2. How did Jacob's blessing of his grandsons reflect his own father's blessing?

Reflect: How does Jacob's blessing fly in the face of the traditions of his people?

Friday

Read: Genesis 49

1. Which of the sons were blessed and which were blessed with what appears to be a curse?
2. How does Judah's blessing foretell the coming of King David and of Jesus?

Reflect: Reflect on Judah's blessing. How do Jacob's words foretell the "Old Covenant" that includes the Law of Moses (Old Testament Law) and the "New Covenant" that is centered on a relationship between Jesus and his followers?

Saturday: *Who will you invite to worship with you tomorrow?*