

# The Case for Hope

## SERMON NOTES AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### I. Introduction:

- a. We are all hopers ...
- b. Not all hope is the same

### II. Hope Can Break Your Heart

- a. Losing Hope can Break your Life
- b. Signs of Depression

### III. Looking for Hope in all the Wrong places

- a. Not all hope is the same
  - i. Hope for vs Hope in
- b. Ichabod - the glory has departed (1 Samuel 4:10-20)
- c. Blind Optimism, Wishful Thinking, and Dreaming

### IV. Hope in the living God

- a. Trusting His Power
- b. Trusting His Character

### V. Conclusion

## Discussion Questions

### Sharing Life Together

1. Are you a glass is half-empty or a glass is half-full kind of person? What do you find helpful with this perspective? What do you find challenging?
2. How have you had to deal with depression in your life?

### Reflecting on the Message Together

1. Why do you agree or disagree with the statement, "Not all hope is the same"?
2. Have you ever had your heart broken by hope?
3. What is your reaction to the idea that there is a difference between *hoping for* and *hoping in*? Where do most of your own hopes tend to be focused?
4. How would you explain the difference between biblical hope and blind optimism, wishful thinking, and dreams?
5. What are ways we tend to put God in a box?
6. What events in your life give you confidence that God has real power to deal with your enemies?
7. What are practical steps we can take to grow in our faith and hope that God really will keep His word?
8. How did God speak to you through the message?
9. How can we pray for one another?