Life Connexion Group Study Notes
Holy Hope in a Shaking World
Date: 8 November 2026

Series Overview

In the series The Holiness of Believers, we are learning that holiness is a life set apart for God and increasingly shaped by the character of Jesus. It is lived in ordinary choices, relationships and responsibilities, not only in moments of worship.

Building on last week's teaching about endurance, this study explores how the hope of God's unshakable kingdom helps us remain faithful. Our confidence in Christ should shape our priorities, holiness, worship and witness.

Introduction

Financial uncertainty, illness, disappointment and changes around us can unsettle our sense of security. God does not promise that believers will escape every difficulty. He assures us that we belong to a kingdom that cannot be shaken. Christian hope rests on the risen Jesus and the faithfulness of His promises.

The question is where our confidence rests when familiar supports begin to move. Money, achievement and relationships have a place in our lives, but only God can provide lasting security. His reign gives us a foundation for faithful living through uncertainty.

> **Our circumstances may change, but God's kingdom remains secure.**

Key Scriptures

Hebrews 12:18–29
Through Jesus we approach God, receive an unshakable kingdom and respond with gratitude, reverence and awe.

Psalm 46:1–3
God remains our refuge and strength when the world around us is unstable.

Ephesians 1:13–14
The Holy Spirit is God's guarantee of the inheritance promised to His people.

1 John 3:2–3
The hope of seeing Christ leads believers to pursue purity in the present.

1 Peter 3:15–16
We are called to explain our hope with gentleness, respect and a good conscience.

Holy Hope in a Shaking World

1. God is sovereign over every shaking

Hebrews recalls the trembling of Mount Sinai and draws on God's promise in Haggai 2:6 to shake heaven and earth. The passage points towards God's final judgement and the permanence of His kingdom. Instability in creation does not mean that God has lost His authority.

Ps Alida used the account of Jesus calming the storm (Mark 4:35–41). The disciples faced a real danger, yet Jesus had authority over the wind and waves. We can bring our fears to Him, remember His faithfulness and take wise, responsible action while trusting Him.

The sermon also made an important distinction: Hebrews does not teach that every crisis, disaster or personal loss is a specific judgement from God. We should respond to suffering with compassion rather than assume that we know why it has happened.

2. God distinguishes the temporary from the eternal

Hebrews 12:27 directs our attention to what will remain. Possessions, status, health and human systems cannot provide ultimate security. These may be good gifts, but our hearts need a foundation that lasts beyond them.

In Jesus' illustration of the two builders, both houses faced a storm (Matthew 7:24–27). The difference was their foundation. Hearing and obeying Jesus gives our lives a firm foundation. Difficulty can reveal where we have placed our trust and invite us to return our attention to Him.

The promise of a new heaven and a new earth in Revelation 21:1–5 gives hope beyond present suffering. God's future includes His presence with His people and the end of death, mourning and pain. This hope helps us use today's resources in ways that serve His purposes.

3. Believers are receiving an unshakable kingdom

God's kingdom is His reign, established through Jesus Christ. Believers already belong to Him, while awaiting the fullness of His reign at Christ's return. Evil and suffering are still present, but they will not have the final word.

Ps Alida described the Holy Spirit as God's pledge of what is to come (Ephesians 1:13–14). The Spirit assures us that we belong to God and empowers us to obey Him now. Spiritual gifts and experiences point towards Christ's kingdom; they do not mean that every future blessing will be fully experienced in this life.

Our citizenship in heaven shapes our responsibilities on earth. We can work, care for our families and serve our community with confidence in Christ. As His ambassadors, we make His character known through holy living, sharing the gospel and practical compassion.

4. Kingdom hope produces holy living

Biblical hope is a confident expectation grounded in God's faithfulness. Because Jesus has risen and will return, our choices today matter. First John 3:2–3 connects the hope of seeing Christ with the pursuit of purity; Titus 2:11–14 shows that grace trains us to live godly lives as we await Him.

Readiness for Jesus' return is expressed through faithful obedience. We can ask whether our private habits, words, relationships and handling of money honour Him. Holiness grows from grace, gratitude and the Holy Spirit's transforming work. We respond to the King who has welcomed us by allowing Him to change us.

5. An unshakable kingdom produces thankful worship

Hebrews 12:28 calls us to gratitude and acceptable worship with reverence and awe. Worship includes singing and prayer, and extends into our daily conduct. Honesty at work, forgiveness at home, generosity and service can all express our devotion to God.

Paul and Silas prayed and sang hymns after being beaten and imprisoned (Acts 16:22–26). Their worship expressed confidence in God amid suffering. We can bring our grief and questions honestly to Him while continuing to recognise His goodness. Gratitude does not require us to pretend that hardship is easy.

We can approach God confidently through Jesus and still honour His holiness. Preparing our hearts through prayer, repentance and thanksgiving helps us gather ready to listen, worship and encourage others.

6. Our God is a consuming fire

Hebrews 12:29 reminds us of the seriousness of God's holiness. His grace gives us access to Him, and calls us to turn from sin. God's love and holiness belong together; the cross reveals the depth of His mercy and the seriousness with which He deals with sin.

The Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus and transforms those who belong to Him. We are called to seek His gifts while also cultivating His fruit (Galatians 5:22–23). Repentance, accountability and a willingness to receive correction help our character reflect the Lord we proclaim.

Holy Hope in Everyday Life

Personally

Bring one present uncertainty to God in prayer. Read His Word before allowing fear to direct your response. Examine whether your sense of security has become tied to money, recognition or control, and ask the Holy Spirit to help you entrust that area to Christ.

In relationships and responsibilities

Practise forgiveness, faithfulness and honesty at home and at work. When someone is struggling, listen carefully and offer support without assuming that their hardship is God's punishment. Look for a practical way to express Christ's care.

As a church and Life Connexion group

Prepare for worship with prayer and thanksgiving. Encourage one another to remain faithful through difficulty, and pray for opportunities to share Jesus with gentleness. As ARC reaches out to households around the church, remember that people may carry struggles we cannot see. Offer a warm welcome, prayer and practical care.

Reflection Questions

1. Read Hebrews 12:26–29. What does the passage say will remain, and how are believers called to respond?
2. How does knowing that you already belong to Christ's kingdom help you live faithfully while still waiting for God's promises to be fully realised?
3. If you expected to meet Jesus today, what attitude, habit or priority would you want to change? What step could you take with the Holy Spirit's help?
4. What does worship with gratitude, reverence and awe look like beyond singing? How can we encourage this in our homes and church?
5. Who around us needs hope or practical support? How could our group show Christ's care and explain our hope with gentleness and respect?

Scripture Memory Challenge

"Since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe."

- Hebrews 12:28 NIV