



GREATER Greater Hope

#npgreater

Week 1
1 of 4

July 4, 2021

Bottom Line: Your view of Christ will impact every area of your life.

Icebreaker: What's the greatest experience you have ever had? What made it great?

Key Verse: *He must become greater; I must become less.* John 3:30 NIV

A greater understanding of who I am in Christ enables me to have greater joy, greater peace, greater love, and ultimately, a greater life. It's the life that Jesus desires for each and every one of us. He's not trying to punish us. He's longing to help us live the abundant life He promised. John the Baptist said it best when Jesus appeared on the scene: "He must become greater; I must become less." When following Jesus, less of us is truly more. In Colossians, Paul gives us a picture of Christ. Your view of Jesus Christ will impact every area of your life. Our faith in Jesus Christ should transform the relationships we have in our homes, our churches, and our world. WE are the expression of the invisible God; we are to show Him to the world. The hope of Christ is that He is FOR us; that He is great, good, and generous, and He wants to leverage all of that for our good. No matter what situation you're walking through, you understand that God is working for something bigger and better. **Three things are produced when we are walking with a greater hope: Greater faith**—you will see your circumstances differently. **Greater love**—you will see people differently. **Greater confidence**—you will see your future differently. **How do you experience greater hope? Have faith.** Believe that there is something bigger and more important than you: Jesus. **Have gratitude.** Focus on what you have to be thankful for, not on what you don't have or what you have lost or what you want. Remind yourself daily. **Rehearse the truth.** Whatever you are going through won't last. Don't listen to the lies. **Love.** Think about the people in your life whom you love and those who love you: your family and friends. Make it a point to connect often with each one. When you go through times of stress and pain, yet know without a doubt that this too shall pass, then you have hope. When we realize we are "IN CHRIST" it puts us at a completely new level. **What separates Jesus from every other thing? 1) His identity.** Jesus said that He is the image of God. When we see Him, we see God. Jesus makes life better and makes us better at life. **2) His importance.** He is greater than all things. Nothing is as important as Jesus. Nothing is to come before Jesus. He is to be out in front in everything: in our families, our priorities, our churches, our dreams, our worship... **3) His influence.** He is the head of the church. He has all the authority. The church is not ours; it is His! He died for the church. He purchased the church with His own blood. Only He has the right to control the direction of the church. Jesus is responsible for His church. He is responsible for its protection, for its reproduction, for its growth, for its provision, and for its continuation. He is our Greater Hope.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What was the most significant part of Sunday's message to you?

Who was the first Christ-follower in your family? What makes being the first challenging?

Our relationship with Jesus will transform every area of life. How has your relationship with Jesus made life better? How has He made you better at life?

When we have the mindset of greater hope, we understand that God is always working for our good. What experience has most challenged this mindset for you?

Greater hope gives FAITH to see my situation differently. Faith is believing that God is who He says He is and He will do what He has promised to do. Evaluate the strength of your faith currently. Remember, when you begin to see your circumstances differently, you are increasing in hope.

Do you know someone who has an authentic reputation for great faith?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

Greater love means that I see people differently. Maturity in Christ is not measured by what I know or how many gifts I have, but by how well I love people. How do you see care in crisis like earthquakes, epidemics, etc., and choices like adoption of unwanted children showing the world this greater love?

Extraordinary love turns heads. Don't blend in when you are called to stand out. Reflect and discuss.

Who is hard for you to love? What are you going to do about it?

Greater confidence is a result of greater hope. What you think about tomorrow impacts today. If you have hope, you can bounce back from basically anything. Have you seen or experienced that? Share. How does the "bounce back" begin?

Jesus is first in identity, authority, and influence. Discuss. What practical difference does it make?

NEXT STEPS

1. Evaluate the status of hope in your life.
2. Read the first chapter of Colossians every day this week.
3. Ask Jesus to fill you with hope through your knowledge of Him.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: Your view of Christ will impact every area of your life.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: Romans 5:1-5

Tuesday: Romans 15:13

Wednesday: 2 Corinthians 4:17-18

Thursday: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Friday: Philippians 4:11-13

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)