



**A Vision of Hope**  
**Ezekiel 1:1-28**  
**Week of Sept. 22, 2019**  
**Brian Down**

**Objective of this study:** To see a fresh vision of God's glory and understand the sure foundation for our hope.

[Remember, the main goal of each Growth Group is to allow God's Word to change your heart so that others would see Jesus in you and be likewise changed to be like him. He wants to change the world through us.]

**Worship (5 – 10 minutes)**

1. Sing a song or two of praise and thanksgiving to God.
2. Spend five minutes in silence asking God to prepare your heart for hearing his word. After the silence, have someone read **Psalm 42:1-11** meditatively to the group. Pause after each phrase letting God speak to you. **Did anything "jump out at you"?**

**Welcome question**

What are some things you hope for?

[It's really important when doing this study that we each think about ourselves specifically and ways we need to grow, not how Christians in general need to grow. Do the hard work of letting the Holy Spirit speak to *your* heart.]

**Word/Work (60-90 minutes)**

1. What stood out from the sermon?
2. Read **Ezekiel 1:1-28**.
3. Who was Ezekiel and who was he writing to?
4. Why did they (Ezekiel and the people he was writing to) need a vision of God's glory?
5. What would it have been like for the exiles in Babylon? Describe the various ways their hope would have been dashed (gone, broken).
6. **Definition of hope:** Hope, as used in the Bible, is not a wish (like "I hope I get what I want for Christmas") but a **confident assurance, based on God: who he is, and what he has said.** With this in mind, how would this vision God gave Ezekiel have affected their basis for hope, in their situation? See especially verse 28.
7. The apostle Paul also experienced captivity and terrible circumstances. He wrote a lot about hope. Here is some of it: **Romans 5:1-5; Romans 12:12; Romans 15:4; Romans 15:13.** As you read these passages, think about these questions:
8. What were Paul's reasons for confident assurance?
9. What kinds of things (behaviors, mindsets, etc.) does this hope Paul is talking about lead to?
10. What role does the Holy Spirit play in the passages (both in Ezekiel 1 and the Romans verses)?
11. What else stands out to you about hope in these passages?
12. What is your take away from the sermon and/or the study on hope?
13. **Close by reading Romans 5:5 out loud to the group. Respond in worship to God.**

**Prayer:**

1. Spend the rest of the time praying for each other. **Praise God together for how he reminds us of his glory.** Here are some things you can pray about for the church:

A. That, as a church, we would actively and purposefully engage in the mission of Jesus in Campbell River.

B. Our church board and staff as they lead us to live out the mission of Jesus.

C. River Kids ministry as they reach out to kids in our community.

D. **Our missionary of the week. Brody and Alison Naknakim.** (Check out the church [website](#) for how to pray for them.)

E. Local church: Living Waters Church.

**Radiant Life September Drive** - Men's coats, men's shoes, and men's casual tops.