

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School—an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing a series on Letters to New Christians. Today's topic: LIVING AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS

1) Followers of Jesus will suffer

- a. How does Paul describe his suffering as a servant of Jesus Christ? 2 Corinthians 4:7-18 (see also 2 Corinthians 11:24-27)
- b. Philippians 3:7-11 Did Paul want to suffer or was he simply willing to suffer as a follower of Jesus?
- c. How should we respond when we suffer as followers of Jesus? 1 Peter 4:14-17, Luke 6:22-23, etc.
- d. Share a time when you experienced suffering while serving others as a follower of Jesus.
- e. Why is it important to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus when we suffer as His followers? Hebrews 12:1-3

2) Followers of Jesus have hope and share hope

- a. 2 Corinthians 5:1-8 What is our hope as followers of Jesus? (see also John 3:16, 14:1-3, Titus 2:11-13)
- b. What does it mean to be absent from the body and present with the Lord?
- c. What motivates followers of Jesus to share a message of hope with others as ambassadors of Christ? 2 Corinthians 5:14-21
- d. Share a time you had an opportunity to share a message of hope as a follower of Jesus.

3) Followers of Jesus are called to holiness

- a. What does it mean to be unequally yoked together with unbelievers? 2 Corinthians 6:14
- b. What important truth does Paul share in 2 Corinthians 6:16-18
- c. Where else in the New Testament can we find a call to holiness for followers of Jesus? 1 Peter 1:13-16, 1 John 3:1-3, etc.
- d. Why is it important to always remember that we are not saved by our holy living but rather as redeemed children of God we are called to holiness? Ephesians 2:8-10, Ephesians 4:1-3, etc.

4) Followers of Jesus rejoice in the Lord

- a. 2 Corinthians 7:4-7 What reasons did Paul have to rejoice in the Lord when he received a report from Titus about Christians in Corinth?
- b. In his letter to Christians in Philippi, Paul encourages believers to rejoice in the Lord always. (Philippians 4:4) How is that possible?
- c. Share a time when Paul rejoiced in the Lord even in a difficult situation. (Acts 16:25)
- d. Share a time when you experienced freedom to rejoice in the Lord.

