



Listening Guide

BIG IDEA: The enemy works to bury our hope, but because Jesus is alive, hope always rises. Because hope has risen, we are called to carry that hope to the world.

KEY TEXT - JOHN 10:10

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

Two agendas. Two kingdoms. Two objectives: the thief comes to steal, kill and destroy; Jesus comes to give life.

1. HOPE HAS A FOUNDATION

Christianity did not begin with an idea; it began with events. Jesus lived, was crucified, was buried, and Christians proclaimed that He physically rose from the dead.

1 Corinthians 15:17 - *"And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins."*

If Jesus did not rise, Christianity collapses. That is why history, places, and evidence matter. The biblical description fits the historical landscape.

2. THE THIEF ALWAYS TRIES TO BURY HOPE

A place associated with resurrection, Christian worship, and hope was covered and obscured. The history becomes a picture of the spiritual conflict Jesus describes: steal, kill, destroy.

Hebrews 11:1 - *"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."*

Faith gives substance to hope. When the enemy attacks hope, faith can begin to struggle.

HOPE HAS A HABIT OF RISING.

Joseph goes into a pit - hope rises. Israel goes into slavery - hope rises. Daniel goes into a lions' den - hope rises. The three Hebrew young men go into a furnace - hope rises. Jesus goes into a tomb - **and hope rises.**

The enemy keeps writing periods where God keeps putting commas.

3. YOU CANNOT BURY WHAT GOD HAS PROMISED

For generations, the traditional site was obscured beneath Roman construction. What appeared to erase the place may actually have helped preserve it.

Romans 5:3-5 - *suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.*

What has covered your life is not proof that God has abandoned your life. Sometimes you do not yet know what God has been preserving underneath what you have been enduring.

The enemy says: "I'll use this to destroy you." God says: "I'll use this to develop you."

The enemy says: "I'll bury it." God says: "Watch what rises."

4. JESUS DIDN'T JUST GIVE US HOPE - JESUS IS OUR HOPE

Abundant life is not positive thinking, pretending bad things do not happen, or believing Christians never suffer. Christianity declares that suffering does not get the final word.

Neither does sin. Neither does addiction. Neither does sickness. Neither does disappointment. Neither does persecution. And ultimately - **neither does death.**

OUR HOPE ISN'T SOMETHING. OUR HOPE IS SOMEONE.

5. HOPE MUST BE CARRIED

Jesus did not commission His followers to protect a place. He commissioned them to proclaim a Person.

Acts 1:8 - "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

HOPE WAS SUPPOSED TO TRAVEL. People who encountered the risen Christ told other people, and eventually somebody carried that hope to us. Now it is our turn.

TLC'S WHY: Bring people to Jesus so that they may live an abundant life.

There are people all around us whose hope is being buried beneath disappointment, broken relationships, financial pressure, addiction, shame, loneliness, grief, or sin. The tomb is empty. Jesus is alive. **Because Jesus is alive - hope rises.**

RESPONSE

1. BELIEVE - RECEIVE THE HOPE OF JESUS

The good news is that Jesus is alive and He offers His life to you. Believe. Receive Jesus. Receive life.

2. LET HOPE RISE

Do not confuse what you can see with what God can do. The tomb looked final too, but hope rose. Let faith rise. Let hope rise. Let Jesus have the final word.

3. CARRY HOPE - TELL A FRIEND

Pray for them. Tell them your story. Invite them to Jesus. Somebody carried hope to you. Now carry hope to somebody else.

BECAUSE JESUS IS ALIVE - HOPE RISES.