



## There's Always Hope

December 14-15, 2019

Hope is:

**A loving God is in charge of life and of my life and no matter what happens, good or bad, He's in control and it will be OK.**

*For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)*

*He has led me into darkness, shutting out all light. He has turned his hand against me again and again, all day long. He has besieged and surrounded me with anguish and distress. And though I cry and shout, he has shut out my prayers. He has filled me with bitterness and given me a bitter cup of sorrow to drink. Lamentations 3:2-5, 8, 15*

*Everything I had hoped for from the LORD is lost! I will never forget this awful time. Lamentations 3:18, 20*

*Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: The faithful love of the LORD never ends. His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning. I say to myself, "The LORD is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!" The LORD is good to those who depend on him, to those who search for him. Lamentations 3:22-25 (NLT2)*

My part...

**I HOPE** in God.  
**I DEPEND** on God.  
**I SEARCH** for God.

Genesis 29, a story of HOPE...

*The Lord saw that Leah was not loved.*  
Genesis 29:31

*Leah conceived again, and when she gave birth to a son she said, "This time I will praise the Lord." So she named him Judah.*

### **For your LifeGroup and Accountability Partner**

*Opener: What was a gift you REALLY WANTED when you were a kid. Did you get it? Did it turn out to be everything you'd hoped?*

*Why is it sometimes hard to "dare to hope?"*

*What does it mean to "depend on God" (Lamentations 22:25)?*

*Read Genesis 29. While the account of Leah is kind of a 'backstory', she's still a real person with hurts and needs. Talk about what happens and how the people were feeling. What insights into God, people and yourself do you find?*

*The story of Leah is from Genesis 29 and adapted from Love Kindness by Barry Corey (Tyndale Publishers)*