1. A need for hope beyond this brief mortal existence
   a) 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 Why is hope beyond this brief mortal existence so vitally important?
   b) Without the hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord, what is the only logical approach to this earthly existence? 1 Corinthians 15:32b
   c) Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 What was Solomon's assessment of a life of pleasure seeking?
   d) Who has a testimony of trying to live for one pleasurable experience after another? When did you realize you needed more from life than that?
   e) How does a sense of hopelessness impact every aspect of a person's life?
   f) What counsel would you give to a friend who is feeling hopeless?

2. Finding hope in the promise of Jesus
   a) John 14:1-3 – What precious promise did Jesus give to His disciples?
   b) Acts 1:9-11 What word of reassurance did angels give to the apostles as they watched Jesus ascend into heaven?
   c) What was the expectation of the disciples when Jesus ascended to heaven 40 days after His resurrection?
   d) Four times in the Book of Revelation we find this promise of Jesus: “I am coming soon!” Revelation 3:11, 22:7,12,20). Why has it taken so long?
   e) Read Matthew 25:1-13 From whose perspective was there a delay in the coming of the bridegroom?
   f) How can we keep our hope strong even when there is an apparent delay in the return of Jesus?

3. Experiencing eternal life now
   a) 1 John 5:11-13 What is the testimony of the apostle John regarding eternal life?
   b) What sayings of Jesus reinforce this idea that eternal life begins now? John 6:39-40, 10:27-28 etc.
   c) Is eternal life a length of existence or a quality of existence with God? Or both? John 10:10
   d) What are your thoughts and feelings about a life forever with God in a new heavens and new earth where righteousness dwells? (2 Peter 3:13)

4. Receiving the gift of immortality
   a) When do those who have fallen asleep in Jesus wake up to experience a continuation of their eternal life with God? 1 Thessalonians 4:13-15
   b) What is the “mystery” the apostle Paul described in 1 Corinthians 15:51-55?
   c) What are your thoughts and feelings about that day?