



1



I'd like to invite you to go on a journey with me today. I'm calling this journey, "Dancing in the Minefields: Life Lessons on Learning to Hope." Your theme for this semester of The Well has been "ramparts" and, of course, God is our ultimate rampart, our refuge, our strong tower against the enemy. One rampart the Lord provides for us is hope. Hope is a word we often use, but it's often misunderstood, so I'd like to unpack that concept for you a little bit today.

But first, would you please pray with me?

Abba Father, I'm here today because You asked me to speak, even if the invitation came through Kelly. Give me Your words, Lord. May anything I say that is not of you be quickly forgotten, and may whatever seeds of truth and life and hope you sow today grow into fruit that will nourish and sustain these precious young women. I thank you that you have proven yourself faithful over and over again in my life so that I can, like Paul, boast in You. To you Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be honor and power and glory forever and ever. Amen.

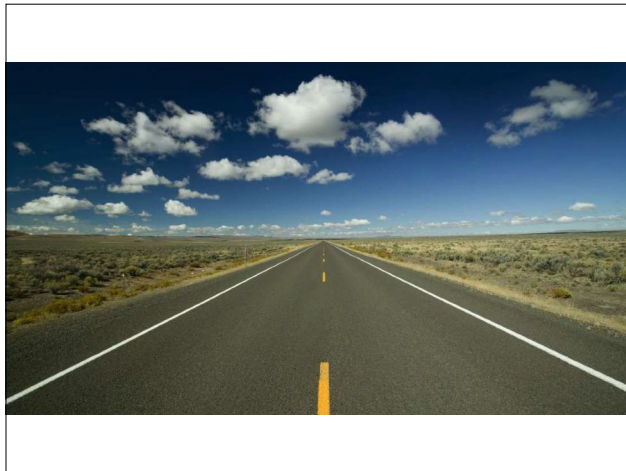
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Here's where our journey begins. I was 19 and madly in love with my high school sweetheart. I had great hope for my future. I grew up on a farm and thought the best life would be that of a farm wife, to carry on the traditions of many generations of my family, to be a homemaker, to have a garden and sew our own clothes, to raise my kids in the country.

I had found my farmer boy and I was ready to get started. We were in love, so I was confident that God would bless our marriage. You can see the hope written all over my face in our wedding photo.

3



I thought my path through life was going to be this long, smooth, level road. We settled on a lovely little farm we planned to buy. But then we hit a bump in the road. He decided farm life really wasn't the life he wanted.

4



Things got rougher and rougher until four years down the road, we hit a landmine. I found out he had been unfaithful to me for most of our marriage, and he was perfectly satisfied to keep it that way. He didn't have a problem with it. But I sure did.

5



Our marriage vows were blown to smithereens and along with it all the hope I'd packed along with me, and at the age of 24, we were divorced, and all my dreams of the future vanished into thin air.

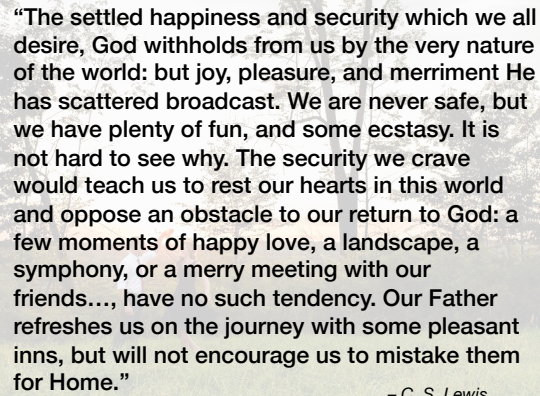
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So I pulled myself out of that crater looking for the road I thought would be so smooth and straight. I found it veered off into the unknown. I had dropped out of college to get married, so I circled around and headed back. Those were years of living like damaged goods and questioning whether a good God really existed. I also wondered how I could ever trust myself to choose another marriage partner. But the Lord gave me some Christian friends who loved me enough to speak truth to me. They could see that I was looking for a man to meet my needs, to provide security for me. That all my hopes for the future were wrapped up in finding a husband.



These dear friends staged what I call an “intervention.” One evening, they gently confronted me and asked, “Candace, who is Lord of your life?” I took a good look at my heart and realized that I had made an idol out of a person. The only person that could truly meet all my needs and provide real security was Jesus. That was one of my first lessons in what real hope looks like. It looks like Jesus.

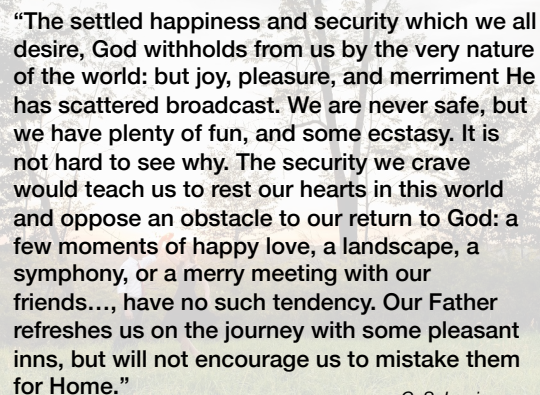


“The settled happiness and security which we all desire, God withholds from us by the very nature of the world: but joy, pleasure, and merriment He has scattered broadcast. We are never safe, but we have plenty of fun, and some ecstasy. It is not hard to see why. The security we crave would teach us to rest our hearts in this world and oppose an obstacle to our return to God: a few moments of happy love, a landscape, a symphony, or a merry meeting with our friends..., have no such tendency. Our Father refreshes us on the journey with some pleasant inns, but will not encourage us to mistake them for Home.”

– C. S. Lewis

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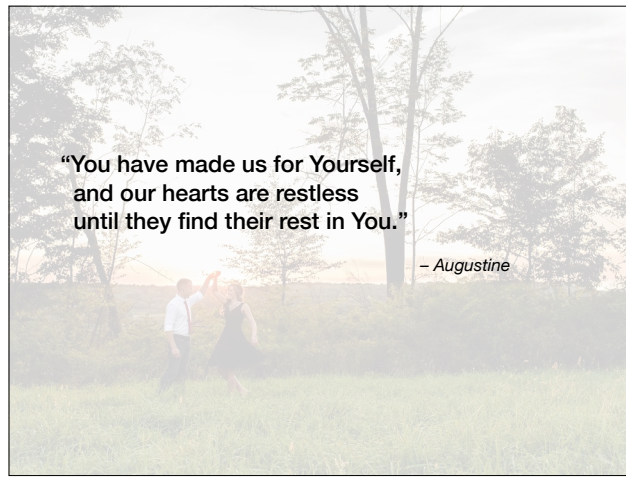


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– C. S. Lewis

We all want a home, right? That place of comfort and rest and belonging. It's what we want to create in our own homes. What C.S. Lewis is saying is that our homes are only a “pleasant inn,” a place that refreshes us on our journey, and a mere reflection of our true eternal Home. By this kind of Home, I don't just mean whatever our wimpy imaginations of Heaven can conjure up.

I mean our Home in the center of the love of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, that place where we are included and participate fully in their love for one another. THAT'S what our hearts truly long for.



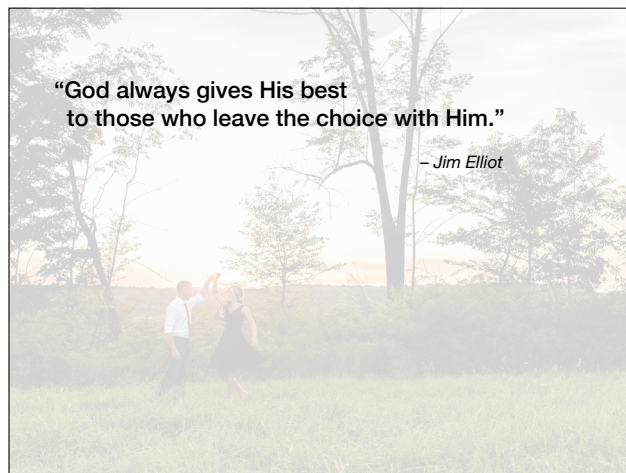
**"You have made us for Yourself,
and our hearts are restless
until they find their rest in You."**

– Augustine

Augustine said, "You (God) have made us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in You." When we are in Christ, we can experience that rest both now in the present AND not yet fully. It's the mystery of the "already and not yet."

Back to my story. I was talking with a campus minister about my fear of making another bad choice in a husband. He pointed to a quote on his office wall by the missionary and martyr Jim Elliot.

11

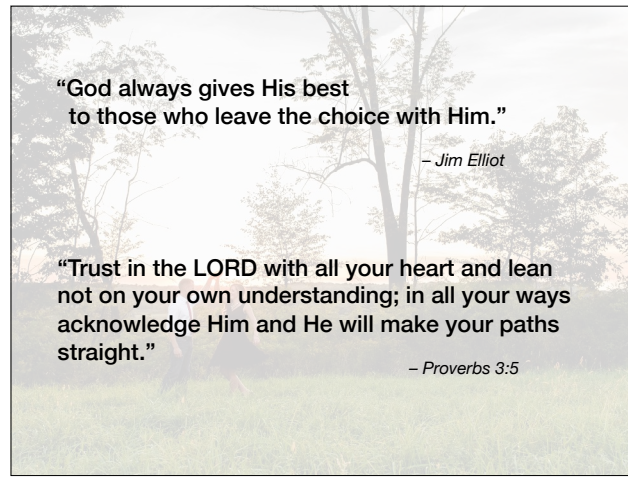


**"God always gives His best
to those who leave the choice with Him."**

– Jim Elliot

It said, "God always gives His best to those who leave the choice with Him."

12



It's that same truth found in Prov. 3:5: “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.”

This was a promise from God's Word that was another lesson in hope for me. I could let go of MY hopes and dreams and trust God who loves me perfectly, to give me what is best for me. I could leave the choice to Him.

Now I'd like to say I learned that lesson of trust perfectly right then and there. Ha! That's one lesson that we spend a lifetime learning. But, this truth, “trust Him and **He** will make your paths straight,” challenged me to shift my focus from seeking my own path to seeking God's path for my life. I stopped dating. I allowed the Lord to be my husband. It was scary and exciting all at the same time.

So I was in a time of waiting on God to reveal His will to me. So what do we do while we're waiting on God?

Elisabeth Elliot, had this brilliant saying:

13



“Do the next thing.” That's some of the most practical advice I've ever gotten.

My senior year of college, that was what I was doing, the next thing, but I had no clue what that would be after graduation. That fall, I got a call from one of my instructors. She and her husband, a professor who also taught the college Sunday School class at my church, invited me to dinner at their home. Little did I know it was a set-up to introduce me to their son. The irony was that he had also stopped dating, and his parents decided to take matters into their own hands. God really does move in mysterious ways! After I got to know him and saw his heart for the Lord, it was abundantly clear that this was the man the Lord had chosen for me, and it was confirmed by all the wise people in my life.

14



Six months later Kerry and I were married. Ahhhh! It's such a romantic story, Kerry and I both love to tell it. God truly did give me his best. And we lived happily ever after! The End. But wait. We all know that life is never that simple. As giddy newlyweds, we on a wild careening ride.

15



A month after we got married I got pregnant with Rachel. A year later, we took a crazy leap of faith and decided Kerry should go to grad school.

16



So we moved a day's drive away from family with a four-month-old baby. We were living on love and not much else.

17



When Rachel was just over a year old, I got pregnant with Hannah. During this same time, Kerry's immune system was in pretty bad shape so he was getting sick a lot, and that slowed down his graduate work.

18



Eventually, we just couldn't make ends meet so Kerry got a job teaching at another college, the graduate degree he'd just spent 7 years working on incomplete. The building he worked in was moldy and he had constant sinus infections, headaches, and brain fog. After 4 years, he was so sick it was impossible for him to continue working. And by this time we had our youngest daughter, Susanna.

19



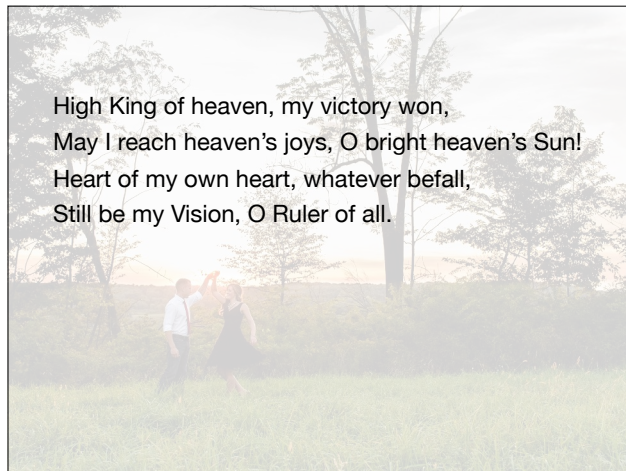
So 11 years into our marriage, we packed up our three kids and our broken dreams and moved back to Missouri to live with his parents. Kerry had sinus surgery but he didn't bounce back. The mold exposure had wrecked him. There was nothing we could do but the next thing, which was wait. We didn't know if he would ever recover enough to work again.

20



That first winter, while Kerry was spending his days and nights propped up in a recliner just focusing on breathing, he printed off two copies of the hymn, "Be Thou My Vision." He taped one to his desk and I taped one above mine. This hymn became our prayer during our time of waiting. The last stanza goes,

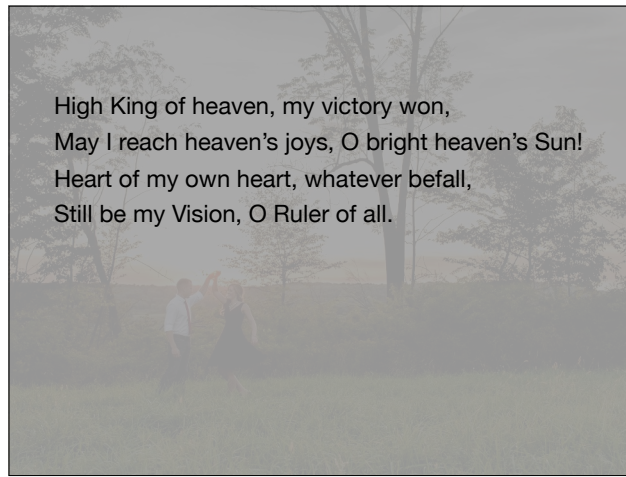
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High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

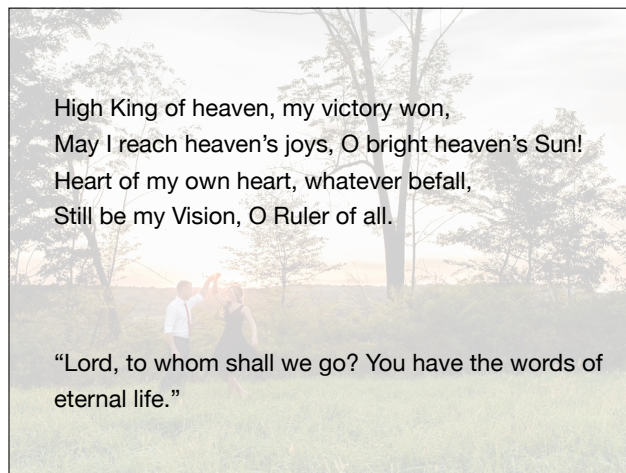
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22



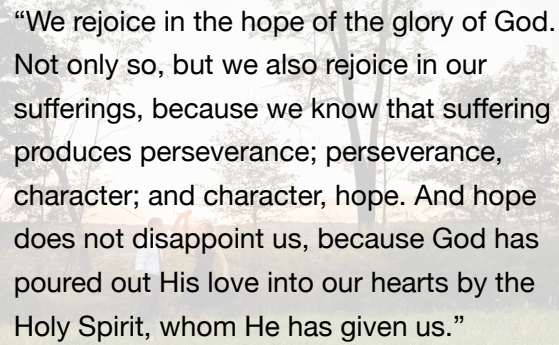
This was the vision we held onto. I remember getting in our bedroom closet where I hoped no one could hear me cry. I was struggling with one of the toughest questions I've ever had to face. How do you live moment by moment and day by day when the future is impossible to see and looks downright hopeless? The way I saw it, I had two choices. One was to give in to my worst fears and let despair, anger, and bitterness take over. But I knew that would damage the people I loved most. The other choice was to find meaning and purpose in the waiting; in other words, to hope.

23



I could choose to say with the apostle Peter, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." So I started searching through my Bible for passages about hope, faith, trust, and patience. I wrote verses on note cards.

24



“We rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us.”

– *Romans 5:2-5*

One of those was: “We rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us.”

I chose to hang my hope on God.

25



Waiting...

So a year and a half of waiting went by. Kerry worked on his writing as he was able. That spring, with barely enough strength to load the car, Kerry drove back to Norman to try to finish up his graduation requirements. It was the next thing. Within a few days of arriving in Norman, miracles started happening. His sinus problems cleared up, his headaches disappeared, his brain fog cleared and he was offered a job at OU.

26



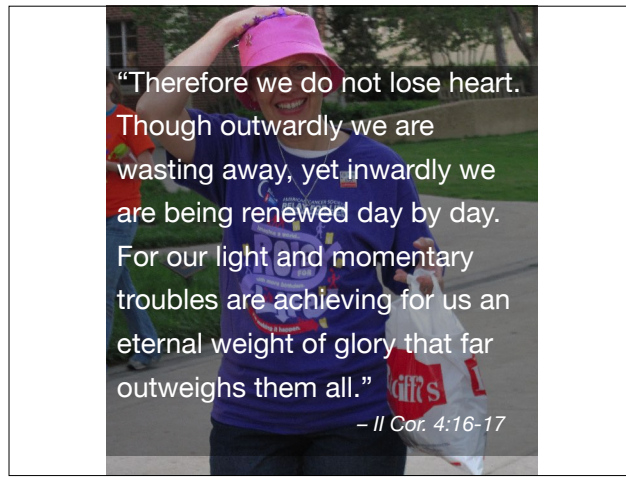
A few months later he was awarded that degree he'd started working on thirteen years earlier. Each one of those things was an unexpected miracle.

27



Since then, we've encountered a whole variety of zigs and zags on our journey. Sorrow and joy all mixed together. Battling breast cancer and beating it. Watching our children face persistent challenges but seeing them grow in their faith. Struggling with other health problems and financial hardship and seeing God provide in unexpected ways. Walking through crises with precious family and friends and witnessing the Lord's mercy toward them. But each turn has taught us something about God. Everything's a miracle. Again and again, He has proven He is faithful. He is trustworthy. He's got this. We are not alone in this. He has given us reason to place our hope in Him. Not because He's changed our circumstances, but because He's changing US by challenging us to walk by faith, not by sight.

28



"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal weight of glory that far outweighs them all." [II Cor. 4:16-17]

29



Several years ago when we celebrated our 30th anniversary, I discovered this song by Andrew Peterson. It describes so well what our journey together has been.

30



DANCING IN THE MINEFIELDS

Well, I was 19, you were 21
The year we got engaged
And everyone said we were much too young
But we did it anyway

We got the rings for 40 each
From a pawn shop down the road
And we said our vows
And took the leap now 15 years ago

And we went dancing in the minefields
We went sailing in the storms
And it was harder than we dreamed
But I believe that's what the promise is for

31-1



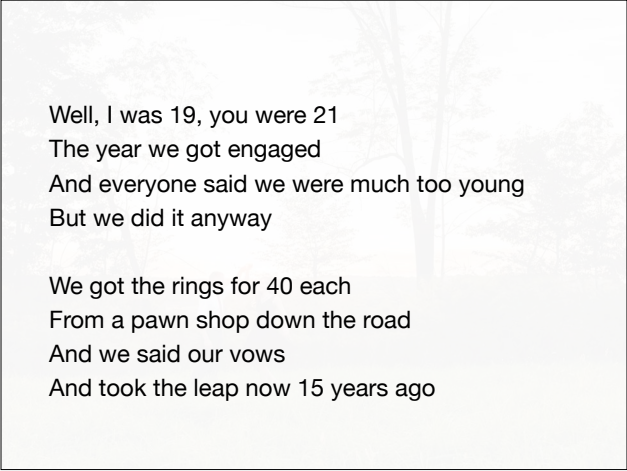
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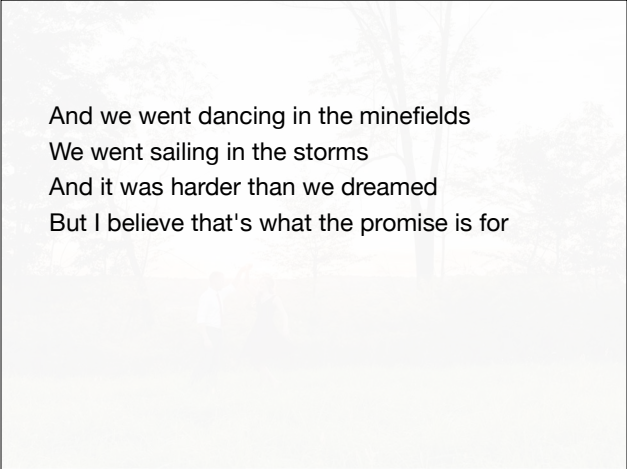
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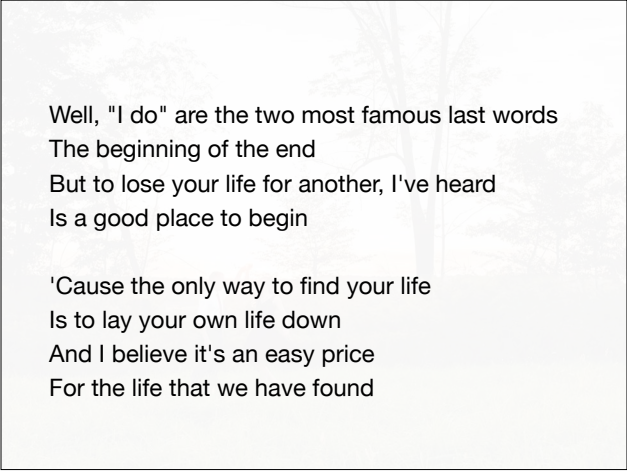
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31-4



Well, "I do" are the two most famous last words
The beginning of the end
But to lose your life for another, I've heard
Is a good place to begin

'Cause the only way to find your life
Is to lay your own life down
And I believe it's an easy price
For the life that we have found

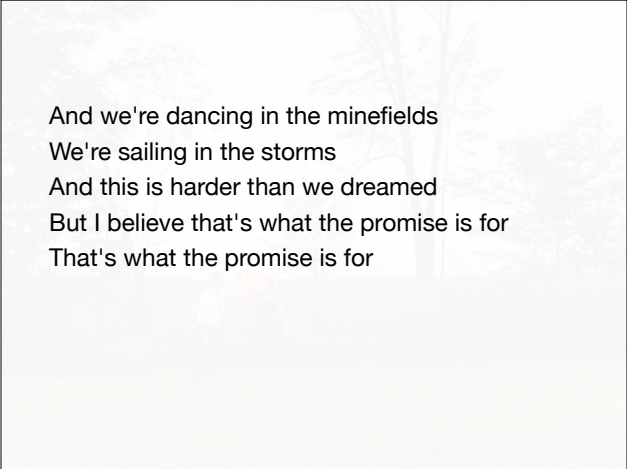
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And we went dancing in the minefields
We went sailing in the storms
And it was harder than we dreamed
But I believe that's what the promise is for

31-5



And we're dancing in the minefields
We're sailing in the storms
And this is harder than we dreamed
But I believe that's what the promise is for
That's what the promise is for

DANCING IN THE MINEFIELDS

Well, I was 19, you were 21
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And took the leap now 15 years ago

And we went dancing in the minefields
We went sailing in the storms
And it was harder than we dreamed
But I believe that's what the promise is for

31-6

So when I lose my way, find me
And, when I loose love's chains, bind me
At the end of all my faith to the end of all my days
When I forget my name, remind me

'Cause we bear the light of the Son of Man
So there's nothing left to fear
So I'll walk with you in the shadow lands
'Til the shadows disappear

DANCING IN THE MINEFIELDS

Well, I was 19, you were 21
The year we got engaged
And everyone said we were much too young
But we did it anyway

We got the rings for 40 each
From a pawn shop down the road
And we said our vows
And took the leap now 15 years ago

And we went dancing in the minefields
We went sailing in the storms
And it was harder than we dreamed
But I believe that's what the promise is for

31-7

'Cause He promised not to leave us
And His promises are true
So in the face of all this chaos
Baby, I can dance with you

So let's go dancing in the minefields
Let's go sailing in the storms
Oh, let's go dancing in the minefields
And kicking down the doors

DANCING IN THE MINEFIELDS

Well, I was 19, you were 21
The year we got engaged
And everyone said we were much too young
But we did it anyway

We got the rings for 40 each
From a pawn shop down the road
And we said our vows
And took the leap now 15 years ago

And we went dancing in the minefields
We went sailing in the storms
And it was harder than we dreamed
But I believe that's what the promise is for

31-8

Oh, let's go dancing in the minefields
And sailing in the storms
Oh, this is harder than we dreamed
But I believe that's what the promise is for
That's what the promise is for

DANCING IN THE MINEFIELDS

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The year we got engaged
And everyone said we were much too young
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We got the rings for 40 each
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And we said our vows
And took the leap now 15 years ago

And we went dancing in the minefields
We went sailing in the storms
And it was harder than we dreamed
But I believe that's what the promise is for

31-9



Isn't that a good image of what we encounter in life, in marriage, in parenting? Dancing in the minefields? There are dangers all around us, but we choose to take the risk: to love, to commit, to lay our own life down.



“This is harder than we dreamed,
but I believe that’s what
the promise is for.”

I’ve thought about that line in the song that says, “This is harder than we dreamed, but I believe that’s what the promise is for.” Yes, it can refer to the promise we made in our marriage vows. But is that enough? Is it possible for me in my own strength to love my husband, my children perfectly, every moment of every day? What about when we encounter really hard things? How do we go dancing in the minefields?

33



HOPE

Well, let’s turn to this little word called hope. We use it in so many ways: “I hope it doesn’t rain today.” “I hope we don’t get the flu.” And then when the first family member comes down with it, “I hope we don’t all get it at the same time.” When used like this, what we’re talking about is an optimistic state of mind. We want something, we may even expect something, but we have no certainty of its fulfillment. It’s like wishing on a star: “I wish I may, I wish I might, have the wish I wish tonight.” Now doesn’t that just make you just swell with confidence and courage to forge on? No, because there’s nothing solid to back it up. And sadly, that’s the only kind of hope the world has to offer. So let’s take a look at what God’s Word has to tell us about hope.

34

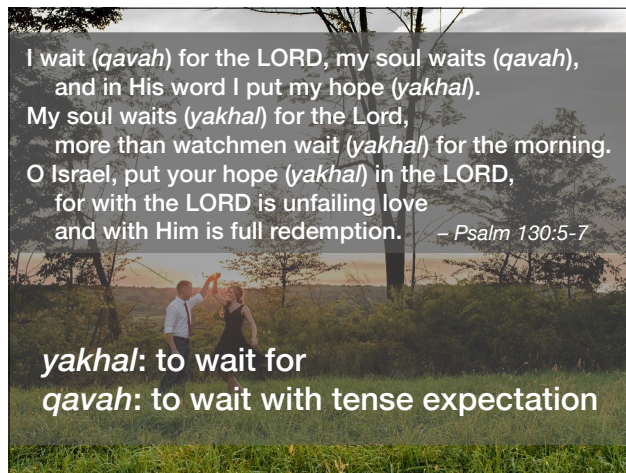


There are two Hebrew words used for hope in the Old Testament:

yakhal: to wait for

qavah: to wait with tense expectation like the tension on a cord or rope that's pulled tight

35



Here's how they're used in Psalm 130. See how "hope" and "wait" are used almost interchangeably.

I wait (qavah) for the LORD, my soul waits (qavah),
and in His word I put my hope (yakhal).

My soul waits (yakhal) for the Lord,
more than watchmen wait (yakhal) for the morning.

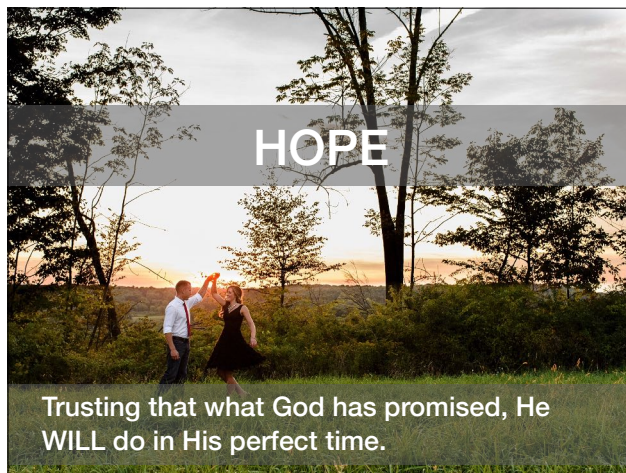
O Israel, put your hope (yakhal) in the LORD,
for with the LORD is unfailing love
and with Him is full redemption.

36



So we see that biblical hope is all about waiting for the Lord to fulfill what He says He will do. Biblical hope is based on a person, and that's different than optimism. Optimism is about choosing to see in any situation how things *could* work out for the best. But Biblical hope is not focused on circumstances. In fact, hopeful people in the Bible often recognize there's no evidence things will get better, but they choose hope anyway.

37



Here's my working definition of hope: Trusting that what God has promised, He WILL do in His perfect time. It's a strong and confident expectation, not in our own plans but in His. It's finding the security we long for in the safest place of all, in Him.

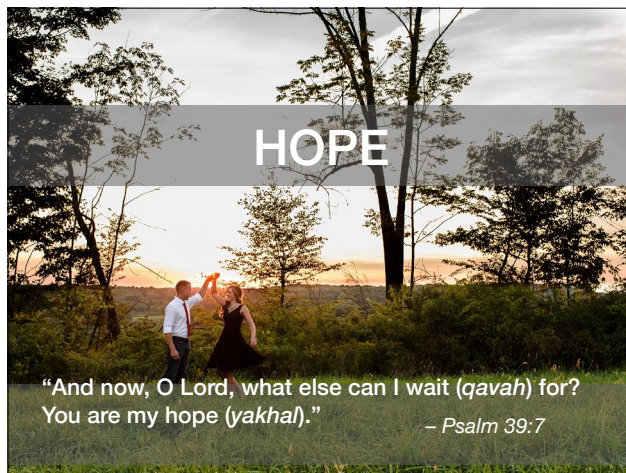
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Now to be able to hope in the Lord, we first must come to know His character. Is He trustworthy? Will He really keep His promises?

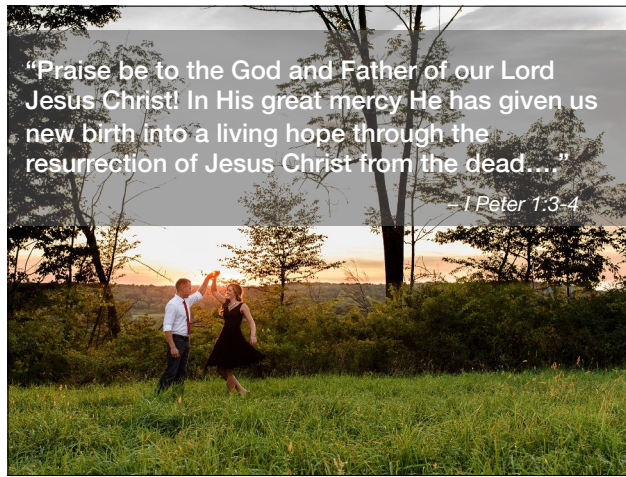
How do we get to know His character? We must look back and see how He has been faithful in the past. It's God's past faithfulness that motivates hope for the future. You look forward by looking backward, trusting in nothing other than God's character.

39



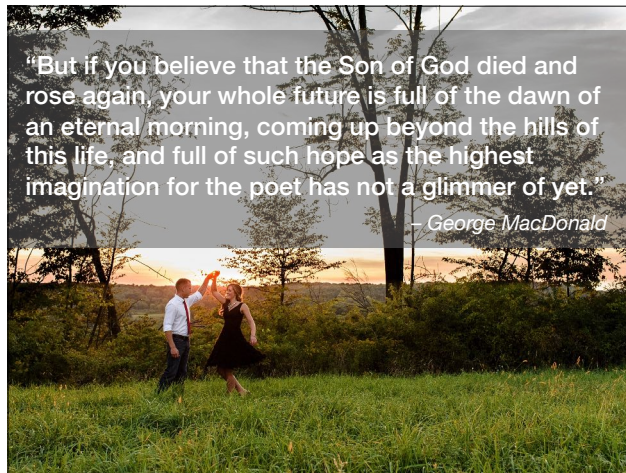
"And now, O Lord, what else can I wait (qavah) for? You are my hope (yakhal)." [Ps. 39:7]

40



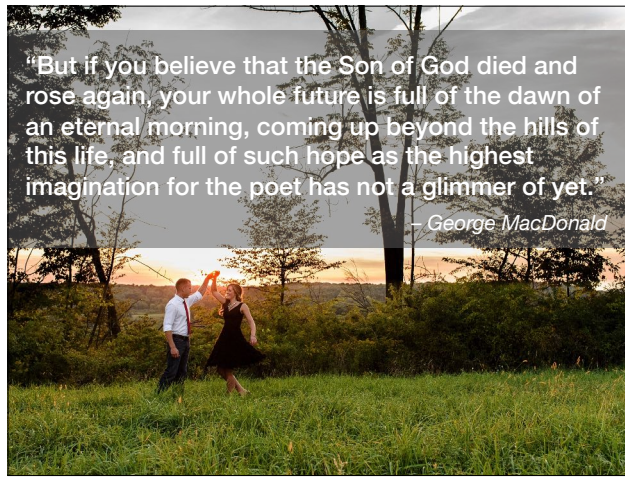
We have no better place to look for God's faithfulness than what He accomplished for us in His Son, Jesus Christ. Peter exclaimed, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...." 1 Peter 1:3-4

41



George MacDonald, was a 19th century Scottish minister and writer who had a great impact on C.S. Lewis. MacDonald wrote, "But if you believe that the Son of God died and rose again, your whole future is full of the dawn of an eternal morning, coming up beyond the hills of this life, and full of such hope as the highest imagination for the poet has not a glimmer of yet."

42



This is what I call taking the long view. We can get so caught up in the minutiae of daily life that we get short-sighted. All our energy is going into making things happen today, doing that next thing. But we risk getting caught up in the illusion that this life is all there is.

So I've found it helpful over the years to shift my thinking to an eternal perspective, especially when I'm confronted with sorrows that can't be resolved in this life. When things don't make sense, we just don't have an adequate perspective.

We can see this as parents. We know WHY our child needs to take a nap, or not have that tempting yummy placed so strategically at eye level at the grocery store. We see the bigger picture.

So when you can't make sense of something, ask the Lord, "Can You give me the bigger picture, the long view, Your eternal perspective?"

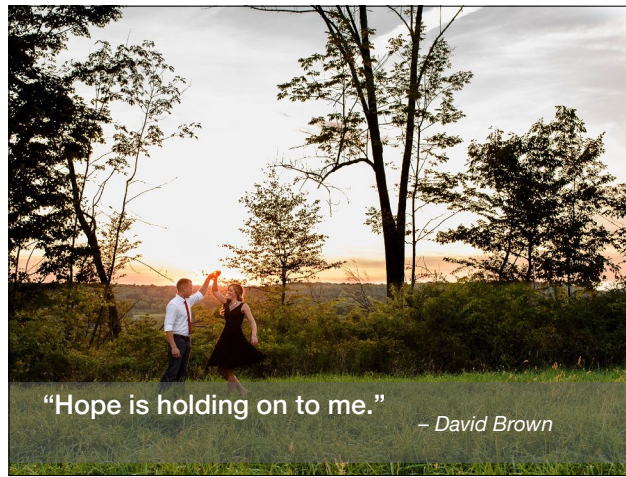
And if You choose not to, will You help me trust that You see it? That Your grace is sufficient for me?"

43



Now am I saying that we can't hope for the Lord to provide what we need in THIS life? Not at all! In the risen Jesus, our future hope has broken into this world. We are in Christ. Christ is in us. His Holy Spirit in us helps us and guides us. He is active and at work on our behalf. Let me illustrate it like this.

44



Some years ago, our friend, David Brown, had a bicycle accident that broke his neck and left him paralyzed. As David was recovering in the hospital and not knowing how much mobility would return, his sister asked him, “David, how are you holding on to hope?” David answered, “Hope is holding on to me.”

45



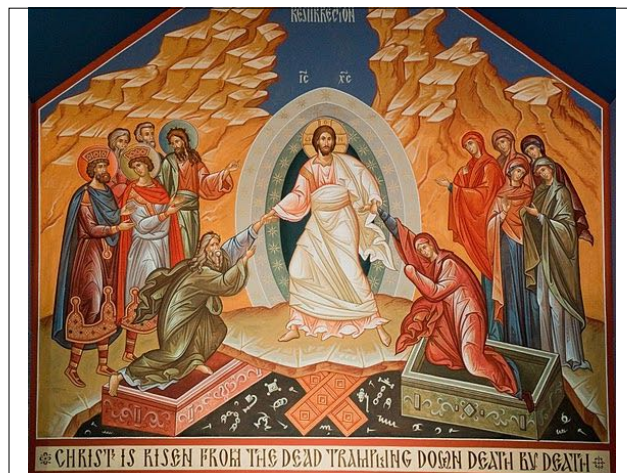
Here's a powerful image that illustrates this. Icons have been used by Christians for centuries as an aid to meditating on spiritual truths. This icon shows the resurrected Jesus standing on the gates of hell that He has broken down. Locks and chains are scattered broken and open beneath Him in the pit. It's accompanied by the phrase, “Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death.” Did you sing that on Easter this year? That line is actually from an ancient Easter hymn. By the power of His death and resurrection, Jesus has reached down into the graves of Adam and Eve and is raising them up from death into life. In 1 Corinthians it says, “For as in Adam all die, so in Christ shall all be made alive.” Now the thing I really want you to see is HOW they are coming out of the grave.

46



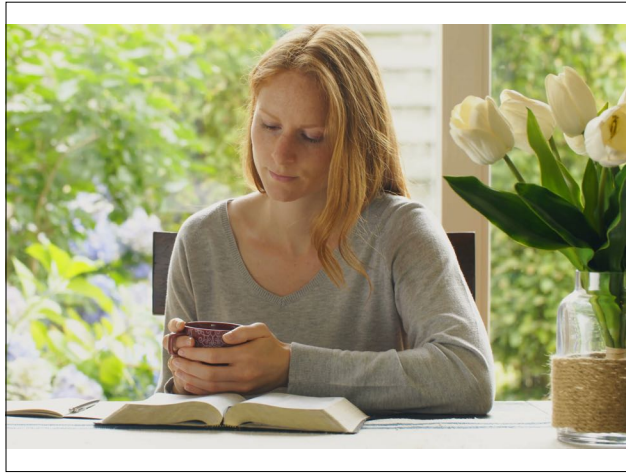
Take a close look. Jesus is firmly holding on to them by their wrists. That is a picture of reality. Jesus is holding on to you. Faith is trusting that Jesus is holding on to you when you are powerless to save yourself.

47



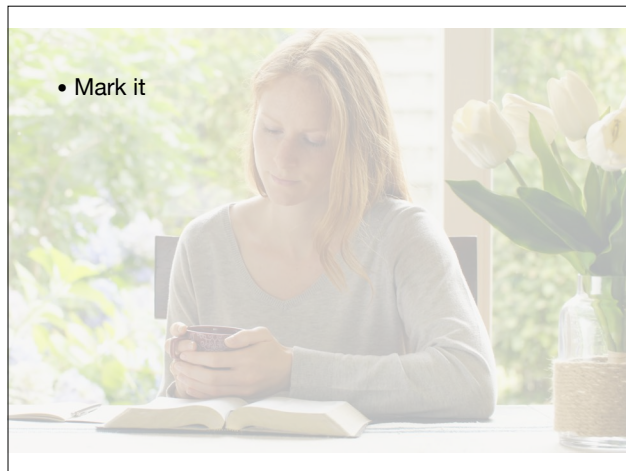
This kind of resurrection hope can infuse our every day. But how do we establish it and maintain it? There are four ways I'd like to suggest that we do this.

48

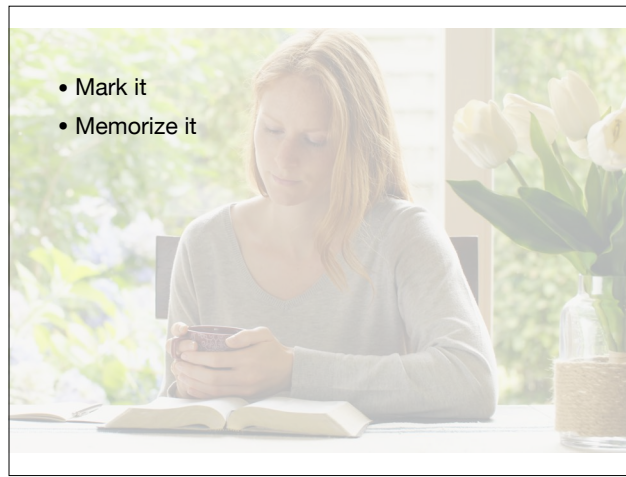


First, we get to know God through His Word. We not only see how He has worked throughout history, but how He has been faithful to every promise He has made. We see His unchanging character of love and forgiveness, of His power to overcome evil, to sustain us, to give us endurance for the unexpected obstacles in life. In Scripture we get to know Jesus who shows us what the Father is like, who has promised to never leave us or forsake us. God's Word gives us solid ground to stand on when those landmines are blowing up all around us. Here are some suggestions for engaging with the Word of God.

49



- Mark up your Bible so you can find those promises fast.
 - Memorize it so when the enemy whispers discouragement, you can proclaim truth and shut him up just like Jesus did in the wilderness. Say it out loud, “He will never leave me or forsake me!”
 - I struggle with anxiety. When I feel that cold panic start to rise up in my chest, that’s when I need the armor of God from Ephesians 6. I need to buckle on the belt of truth and take up the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God.
 - Pray the Word. Pray the Psalms. Put your name in it, your husband’s name, your children’s names.
 - Write it on post-it notes to stick on your bathroom mirror or the dash of your car or over the changing table where you can feed on them throughout the day.
 - Write them in a journal.
 - Print them out and frame them.
 - There are great free apps you can have handy on your smartphone like Bible Gateway and Read Scripture
 - The Bible Project is a website with loads of free animated videos that explore the books and themes of the Bible. They have teamed up with the Read Scripture app so you can watch the corresponding videos as you follow the app’s reading plan.
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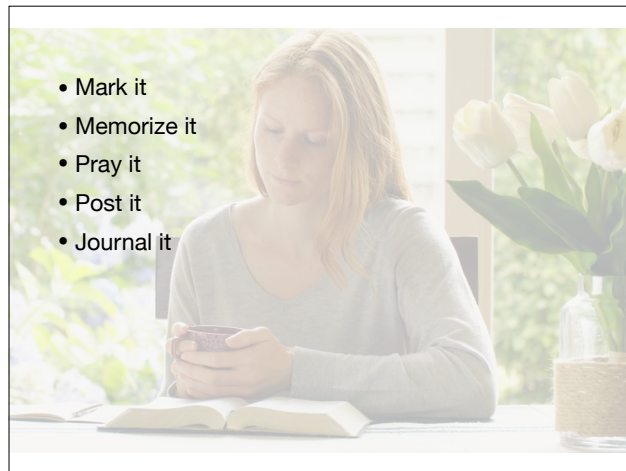
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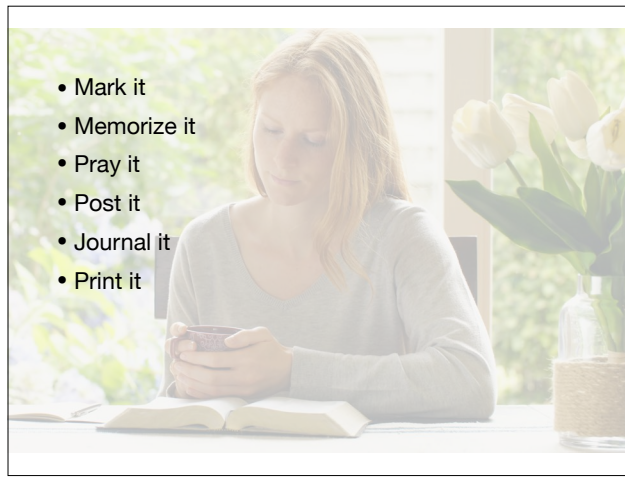
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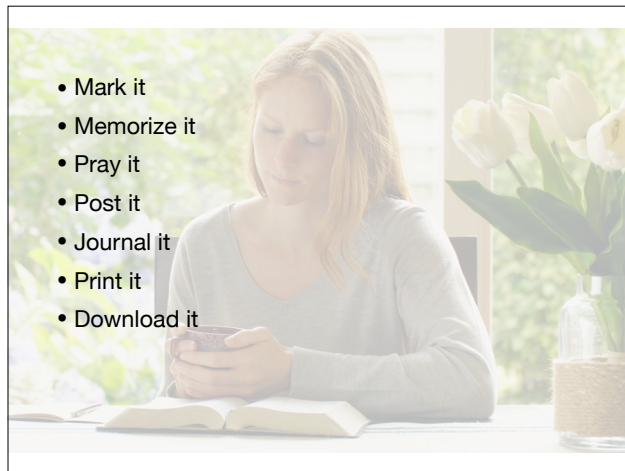
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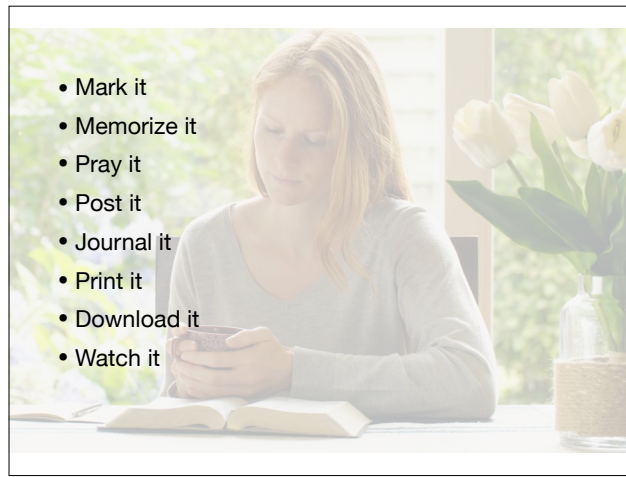
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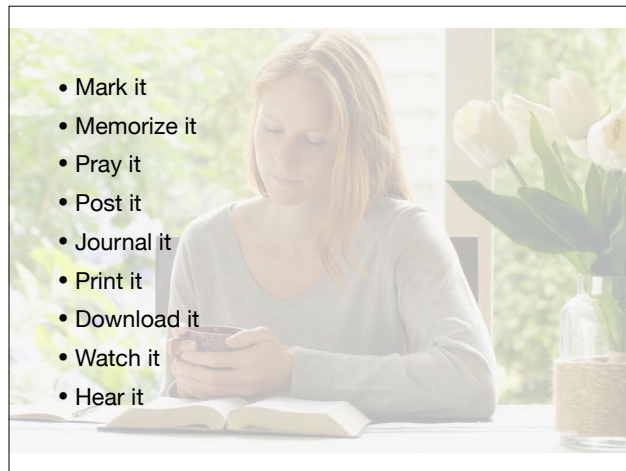
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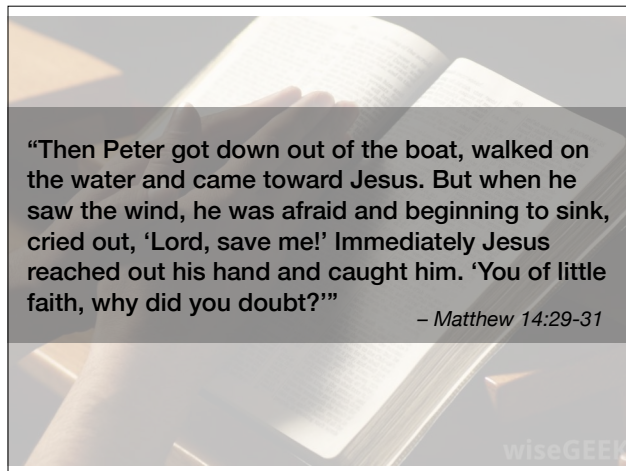
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A second way we establish hope in our minds and hearts is when we spend time with our Lord in prayer. I don't know how many times I have worked myself into a worried frazzled mess because I was focusing on my problem rather than the One who has the answers. I'm like Peter in the boat when he sees Jesus walking on the water and asks to come out to him.

51



"Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and beginning to sink, cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?'" [Mt. 14:29-31]

When did Peter begin to sink? When he took his eyes off Jesus and focused on the chaos around him. Prayer keeps our eyes on Jesus. It draws us into His life and transforms ours.

52



One element of prayer I think is especially transforming is thanksgiving.

53



Neglecting to give God thanks is like being colorblind. Our perception of reality is skewed. Romans 1:21 says that those who did not honor God or give thanks to Him became futile in their thinking and their hearts were darkened. Have you seen the videos of colorblind people putting on special glasses that allow them to see colors for the first time?

54



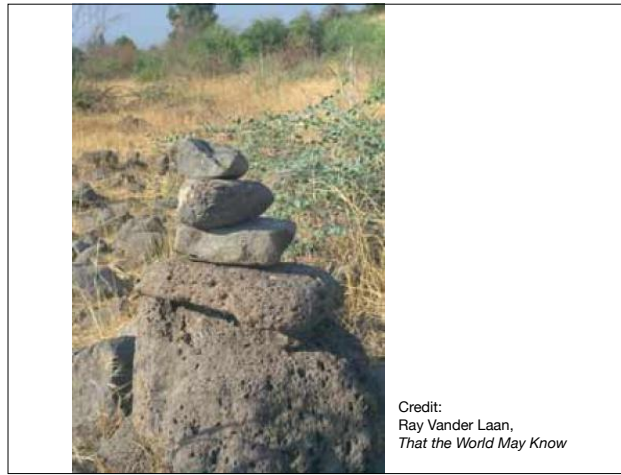
Finally they see the world as it really is and they are overwhelmed with the beauty of it. That's what thanksgiving does for us. We see God at work in every little thing and it infuses us with hope and joy.

55



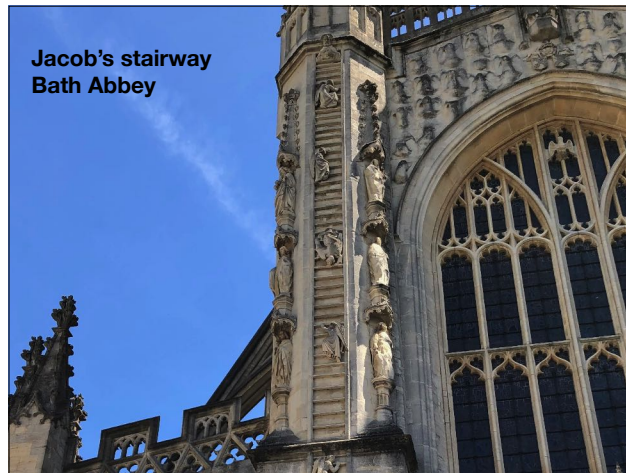
A third way to build hope is one you're doing today. Get with other people who will lift you up, who will **hold on to hope for you when you've lost yours**. I have a group of friends that I've met with every month or so since our kids were young. We named ourselves Small Talk. The word small there stands for Stressed Moms at a Long Lunch. Our kids are all grown but the name still fits! We never stop being moms! And we still get stressed! I have friends I can text a prayer need to and within moments I know they'll be praying for me or my kids or whatever the need is. What an incredible encouragement my friends are to me. They speak truth to me. They are Jesus visible to me.

56



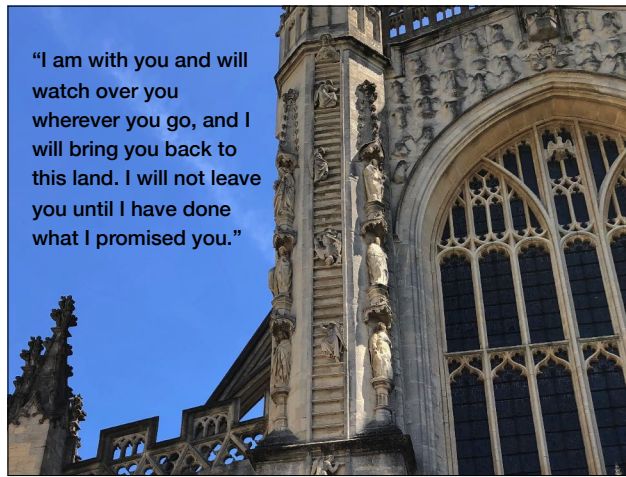
I've come up with one final way to build hope. Remember I said earlier that we look backward to look forward? The Israelites followed an ancient custom of setting up a standing stone or pillar as a reminder of God's covenant promise and supernatural acts on their behalf. They were visible reminders of God's faithfulness. The story of the stone was passed down from generation to generation through oral tradition.

57



One example of this was when Jacob had the dream of the stairway to heaven with angels going up and down it, and the Lord spoke to him and reaffirmed His covenant with him.

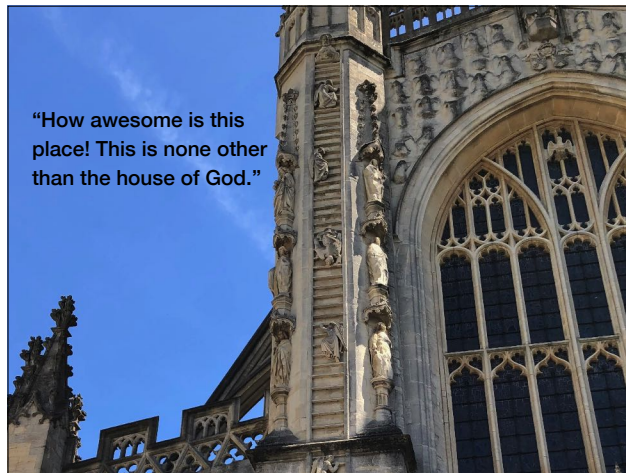
58



"I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I promised you."

The Lord said, "I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I promised you." The next day Jacob set up the stone he had rested his head on, and said,

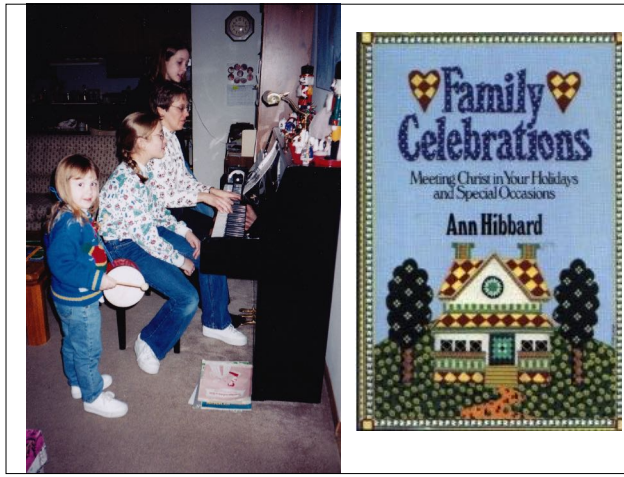
59



"How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God."

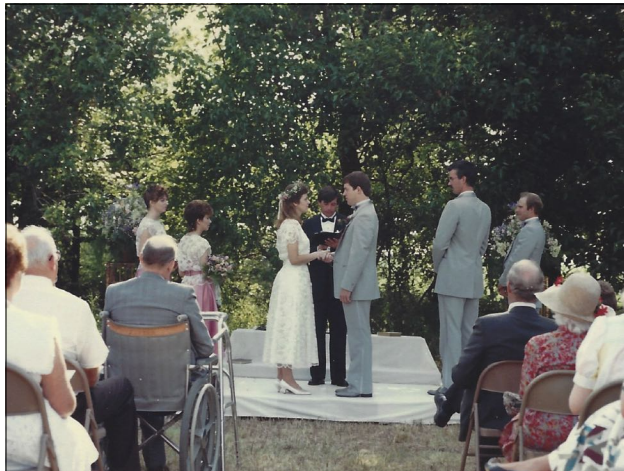
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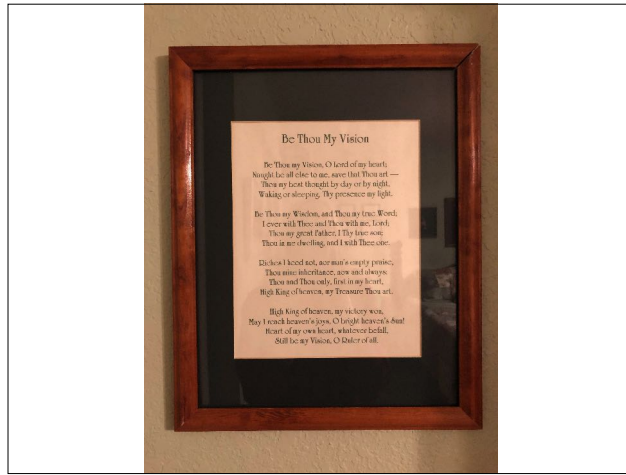
I encourage you to create reminders of God's faithfulness to you and your family. It doesn't have to be an actual stone although I know some people do that. They have a jar in which they place stones representing an answer to prayer. Pinterest is probably chock full of ideas. Visible reminders are powerful. But your reminder can be any kind of family tradition, it can be an activity or a meal to mark a special day. It can be a song. Here are just some examples from our family.

61



Every year around our anniversary, Kerry and I try to watch our wedding video so we can hear our vows again, see that young love again, and remember how God has been faithful in sustaining us over the years.

62



This framed print of “Be Thou My Vision” hangs in our bedroom as a reminder of God seeing us through that time Kerry was ill. It was a gift from the people at our church who had prayed us through Kerry’s illness.

63



When our girls were little, we looked for ways to turn holidays into seasons of remembrance that would outshine whatever the secular world had to offer.

64



We established family traditions for the season of Advent before Christmas and for the season of Lent before Easter.

65



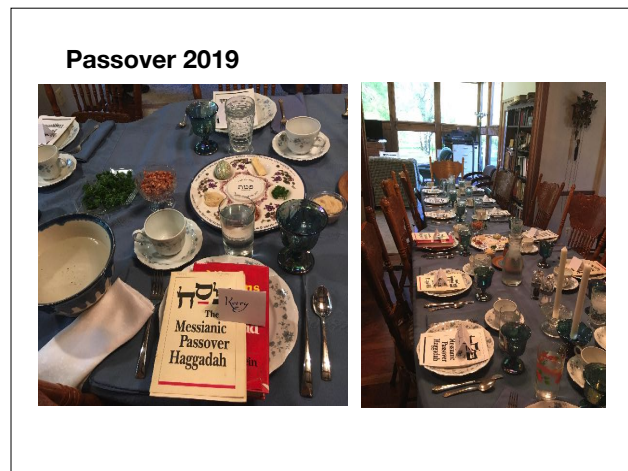
I looked for ways to incorporate all 5 of their senses, anything that would imprint these stories and their deeper truths into their memories: Lighting the Advent candles,

66



reading and re-reading carefully chosen picture books, acting out the Christmas story with a nativity set,

67



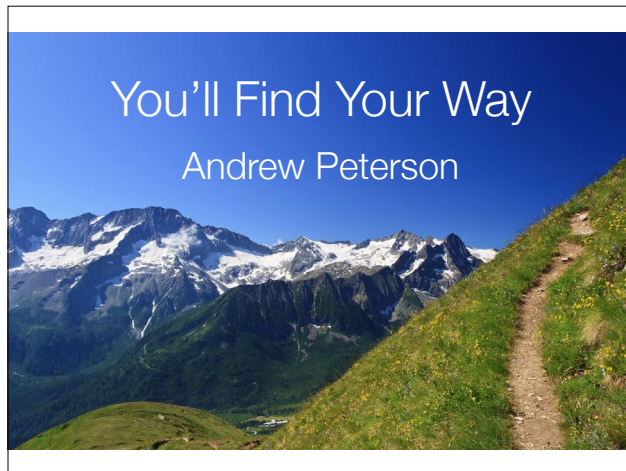
Retelling the Exodus story through a Passover seder meal with the same special foods that Jesus ate at the Last Supper and showing how Passover pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

68



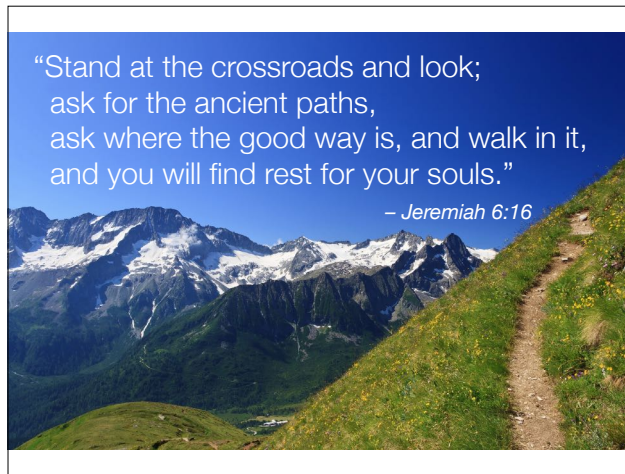
I'm not advocating that your family start these particular traditions. I'm just wanting to stimulate your thinking about how you can use family traditions as standing stones, markers of God's faithfulness to His children in the past and His continuing faithfulness to you and your family.

69



To conclude, I have one more song by Andrew Peterson to share with you. How do we find God's path for our lives? And how do we pass on to our children the hope that we've found in Him? The Lord gave Jeremiah the prophet a message for those in Judah who had forgotten Him:

70

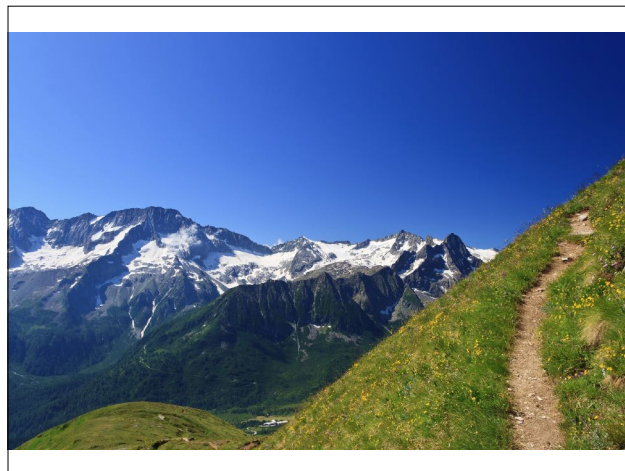


“Stand at the crossroads and look;
ask for the ancient paths,
ask where the good way is, and walk in it,
and you will find rest for your souls.”

– Jeremiah 6:16

“Stand at the crossroads and look;
ask for the ancient paths,
ask where the good way is, and walk in it,
and you will find rest for your souls.” Jeremiah 6:16

71



YOU'LL FIND YOUR WAY
Andrew Peterson, “Light for the Lost Boy,” “After All These Years”

When I look at you, boy
I can see the road that lies ahead
I can see the love and the sorrow

Bright fields of joy
Dark nights awake in a stormy bed
I wanna go with you, but I can't follow

So keep to the old roads
Keep to the old roads
And you'll find your way

Your first kiss, your first crush

72-1



YOU'LL FIND YOUR WAY

Andrew Peterson, "Light for the Lost Boy," "After All These Years"

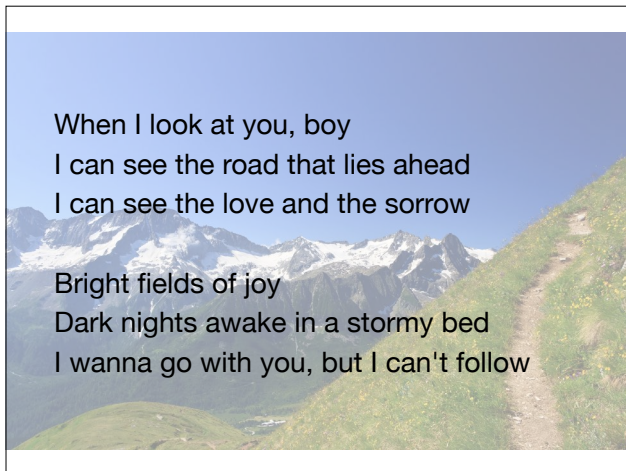
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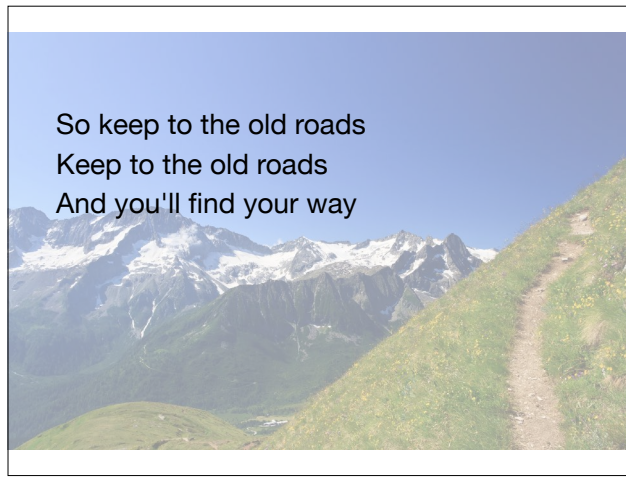
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Your first kiss, your first crush

72-3



YOU'LL FIND YOUR WAY

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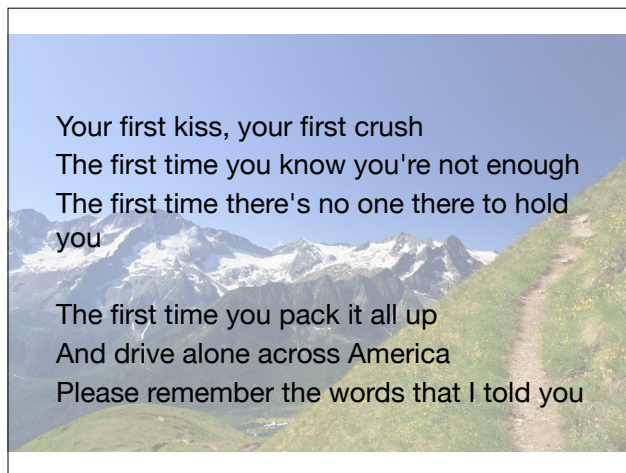
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Your first kiss, your first crush

72-4



YOU'LL FIND YOUR WAY

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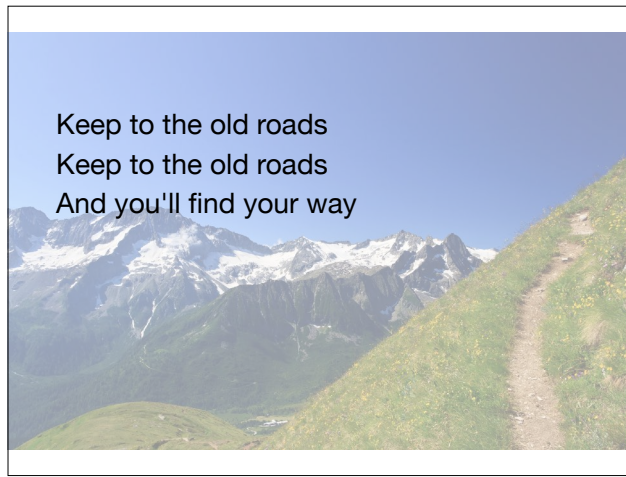
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Your first kiss, your first crush

72-5



YOU'LL FIND YOUR WAY

Andrew Peterson, "Light for the Lost Boy," "After All These Years"

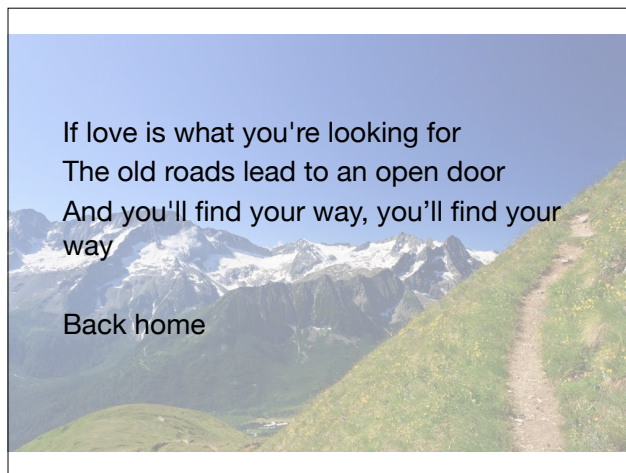
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Your first kiss, your first crush

72-6



YOU'LL FIND YOUR WAY

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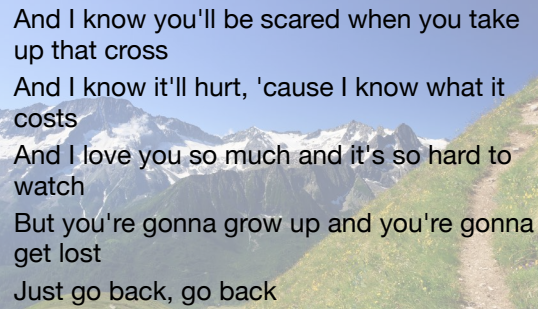
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So keep to the old roads
Keep to the old roads
And you'll find your way

Your first kiss, your first crush

72-7



And I know you'll be scared when you take
up that cross
And I know it'll hurt, 'cause I know what it
costs
And I love you so much and it's so hard to
watch
But you're gonna grow up and you're gonna
get lost
Just go back, go back

YOU'LL FIND YOUR WAY

Andrew Peterson, "Light for the Lost Boy," "After All These Years"

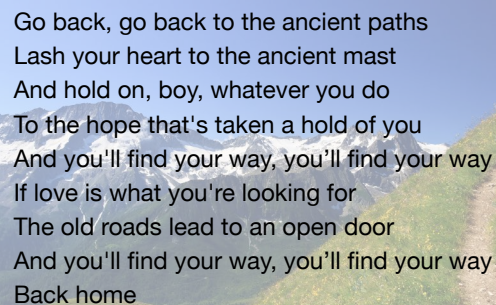
When I look at you, boy
I can see the road that lies ahead
I can see the love and the sorrow

Bright fields of joy
Dark nights awake in a stormy bed
I wanna go with you, but I can't follow

So keep to the old roads
Keep to the old roads
And you'll find your way

Your first kiss, your first crush

72-8



Go back, go back to the ancient paths
Lash your heart to the ancient mast
And hold on, boy, whatever you do
To the hope that's taken a hold of you
And you'll find your way, you'll find your way
If love is what you're looking for
The old roads lead to an open door
And you'll find your way, you'll find your way
Back home

YOU'LL FIND YOUR WAY

Andrew Peterson, "Light for the Lost Boy," "After All These Years"

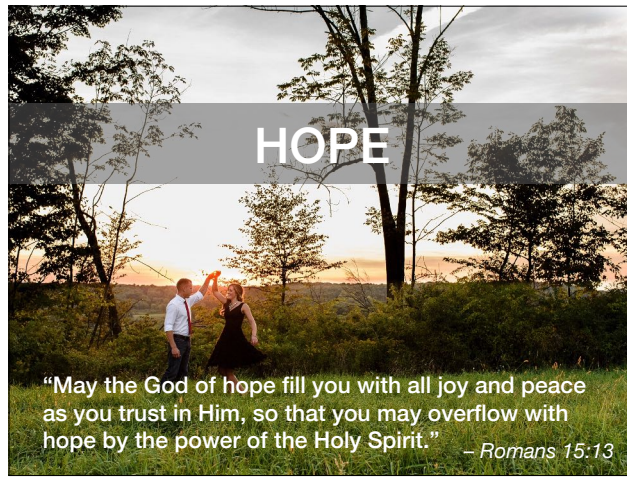
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So keep to the old roads
Keep to the old roads
And you'll find your way

Your first kiss, your first crush

72-9



As you find your way, to dance in the minefields, I leave you with this blessing: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Rom 15:13)